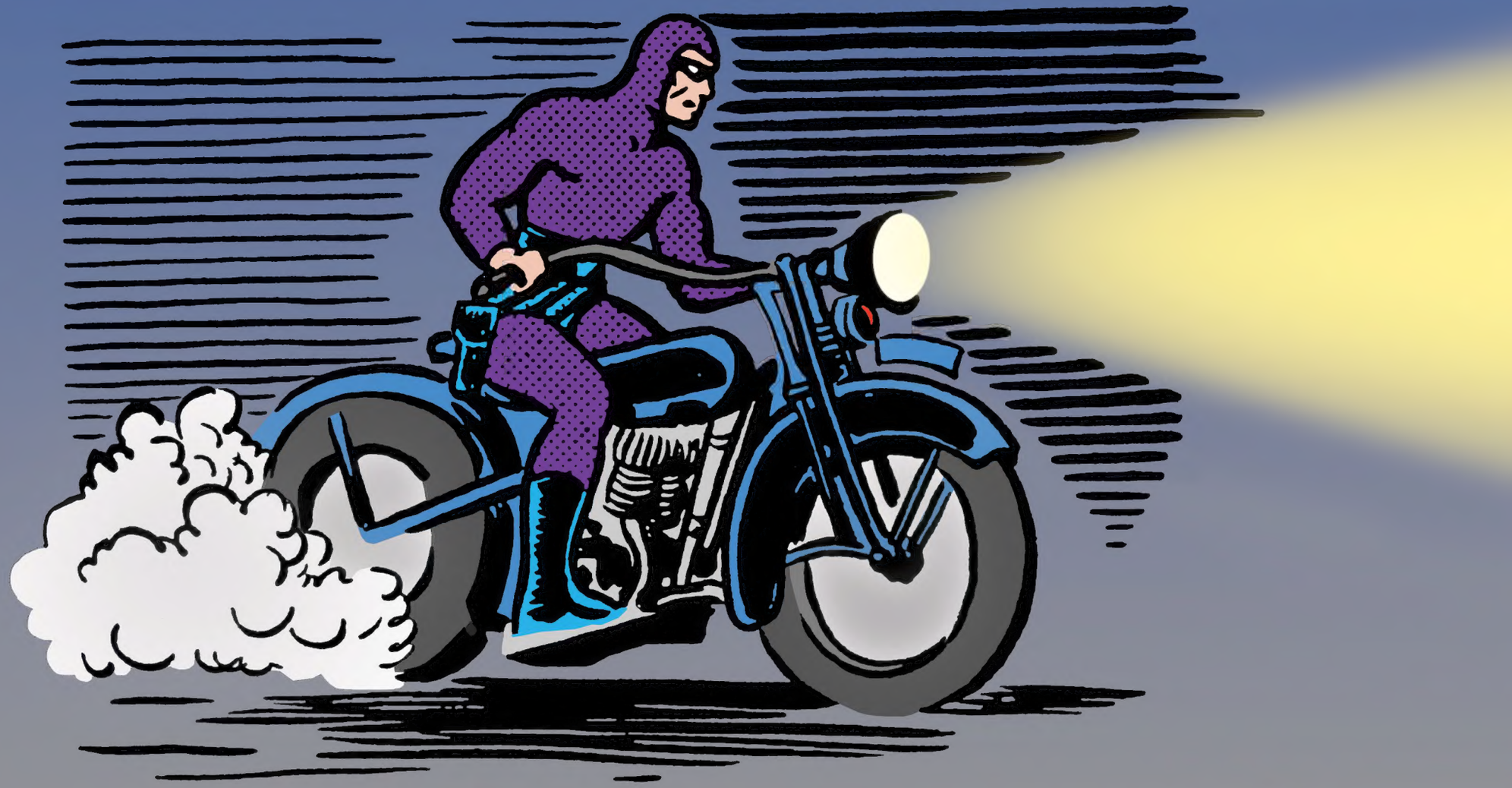

the PHANTOM®

the complete newspaper dailies: Volume Five 1943-1944

lee falk and wilson mccoy

Hp

the PHANTOM®

the complete newspaper dailies: Volume Five 1943-1944

lee falk and wilson mccoy

introduction by ed rhoades

HERMES PRESS

neshannock, pennsylvania

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In Memory of Ed Rhoades

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Printed in China

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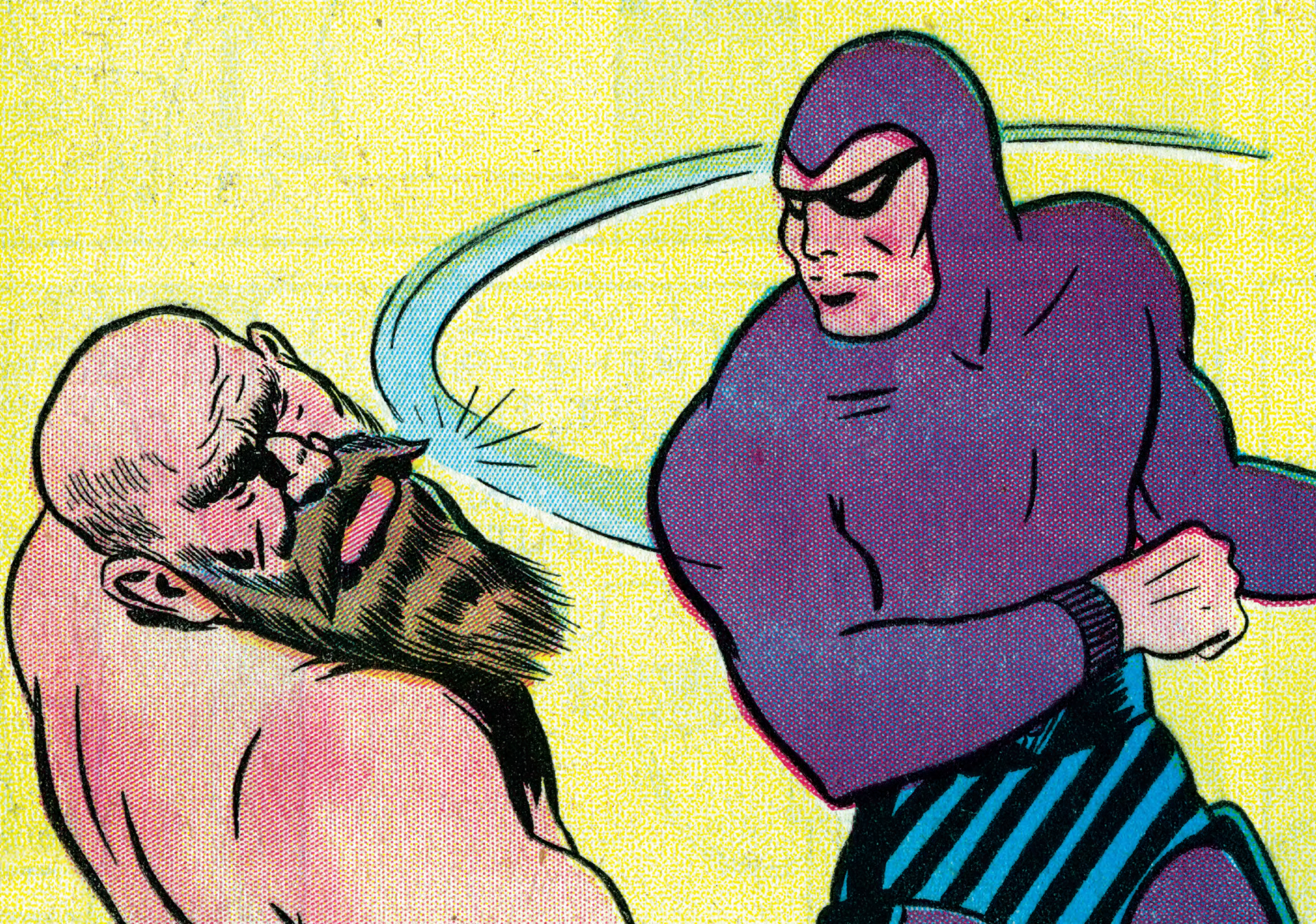


introduction

Passing the Torch

While the guiding force with *The Phantom* was always its creator, Lee Falk, the early tone and feel of the strip also belongs to artist Ray Moore. Moore's tenure on the daily strip, from 1936 to early 1943 — with a brief return in 1946 in the continuity "Princess Valerie" — paved the way for a feature that still runs in newspapers today. Moore was succeeded on the strip by Wilson McCoy.

McCoy's art, on display in this volume, started with the previous storyline, "The Inexorables (The Phantom Goes to War)." Although it was only the 16th daily Phantom strip, the character had already garnered a devoted readership, set precedents for future stories, and developed a costumed hero who was the defining archetype that became a forbearer of an entire genre. McCoy's involvement with the strip was uncredited, he was acting in a capacity commonly referred to as a "ghost" artist.

The difference between a ghost and an assistant working on a comic strip is that an assistant may get credit for his or her contribution, while a ghost is someone behind the scenes without attribution. Ghosts frequently worked on comic strip features to facilitate production schedules. A strip's "name" artist might fear that if a syndicate knew the artist or writer had assistants, it might feel that it was paying more than necessary. However, it was very common for artists on popular comic strips, both continuity and humor strips, to employ assistants who, in deadline crunch times, would "pitch in" and help. Not getting the job done in the time-frame set by the syndicate could result in fines or even replacing the artist or writer with a lower paid assistant, thereby eliminating the middle man.

The Second World War called many in the comic strip trade to come to the aid of their county, disrupting many features. Patriotism however was not always rewarded by the newspaper syndicates. There was said to have been a rule that if someone voluntarily left a strip to join the armed forces, they forfeited their job, but if they were drafted, their job would be there when they returned. One of the most notorious examples of this was with Alex Raymond creator of *Flash Gordon*. Raymond felt compelled to leave the strip and

Opposite page: Ray Moore/Wilson McCoy art from the *Phantom* Sunday strip from March 28, 1943, "The Castle in the Clouds" continuity.

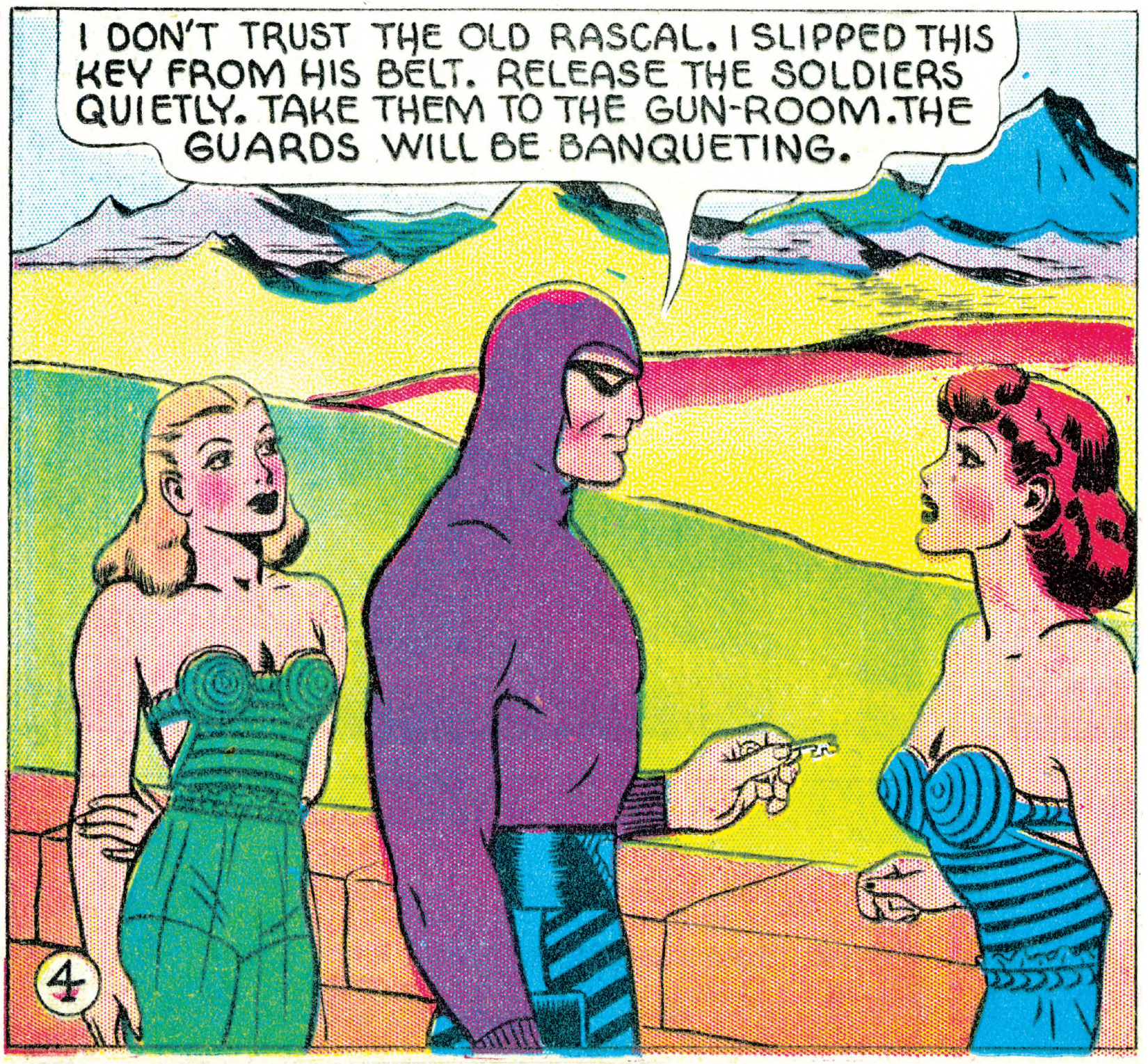
enlisted in the Marines. When Raymond returned, he was denied a return to the *Flash Gordon* strip. He then went on to create a new strip, *Rip Kirby*. Raymond has been considered one of the greatest artists in the world of adventure strips. Rip Kirby, although not as popular as *Flash Gordon*, displayed Raymond's amazing talent.

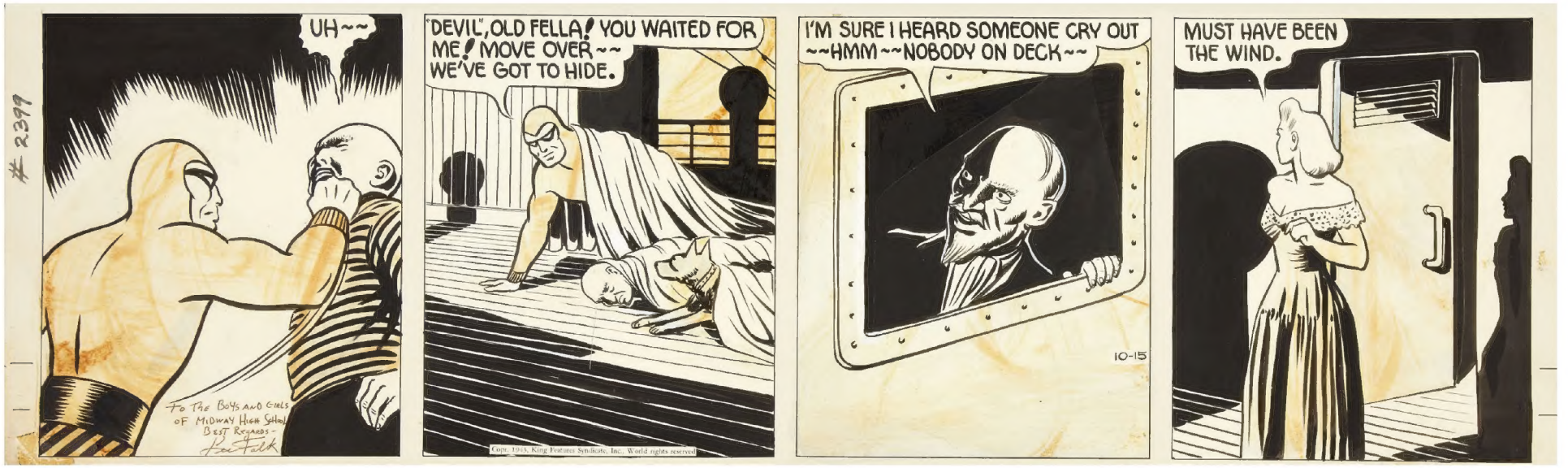
The reasons for Moore's departure from *The Phantom* are less clear. Lee Falk and Ray Moore each presented different stories. Moore's friend Wilson McCoy took over Moore's work while Moore served during WWII. Moore tried to return as illustrator of *The Phantom*, but due to his failing health, McCoy eventually took over as the permanent illustrator.

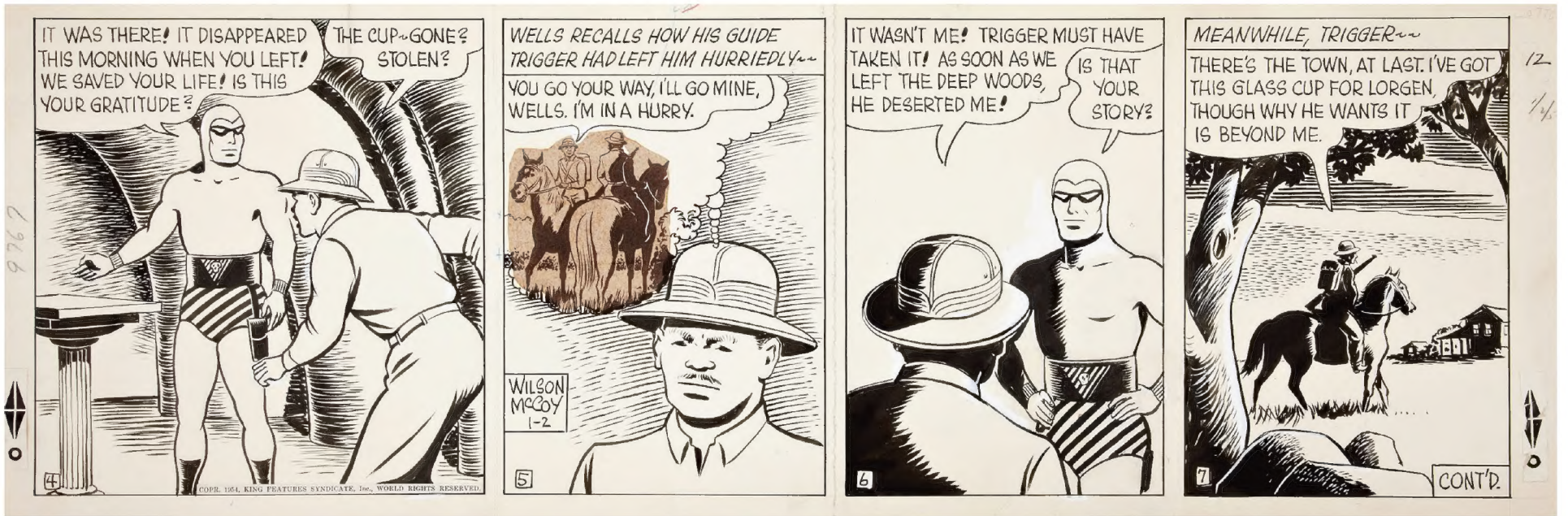
Although McCoy initially copied Moore's style, there were telltale differences in their drawing and inking techniques. Examples include McCoy's rounded renderings of hands compared to Moore's angular drawings with broken lines between fingers. Another example is McCoy's proclivity for drawing vertical lines for close-ups of eyebrows — a practice Moore didn't share. When he was assisting Moore, McCoy used similar inking technique for contrast and composition. In later years, McCoy developed a very different looking strip from when he ghosted Moore's strip. Despite Moore keeping the byline, the majority of drawing and inking for "The Inexorables" was actually done by McCoy, who managed to give the strip visual continuity after Moore's beginning.

McCoy was born in Troy, Missouri on April 6, 1902. He received his art education, attending night school, at the Art Institute of Chicago. He later attended the Washington University School of

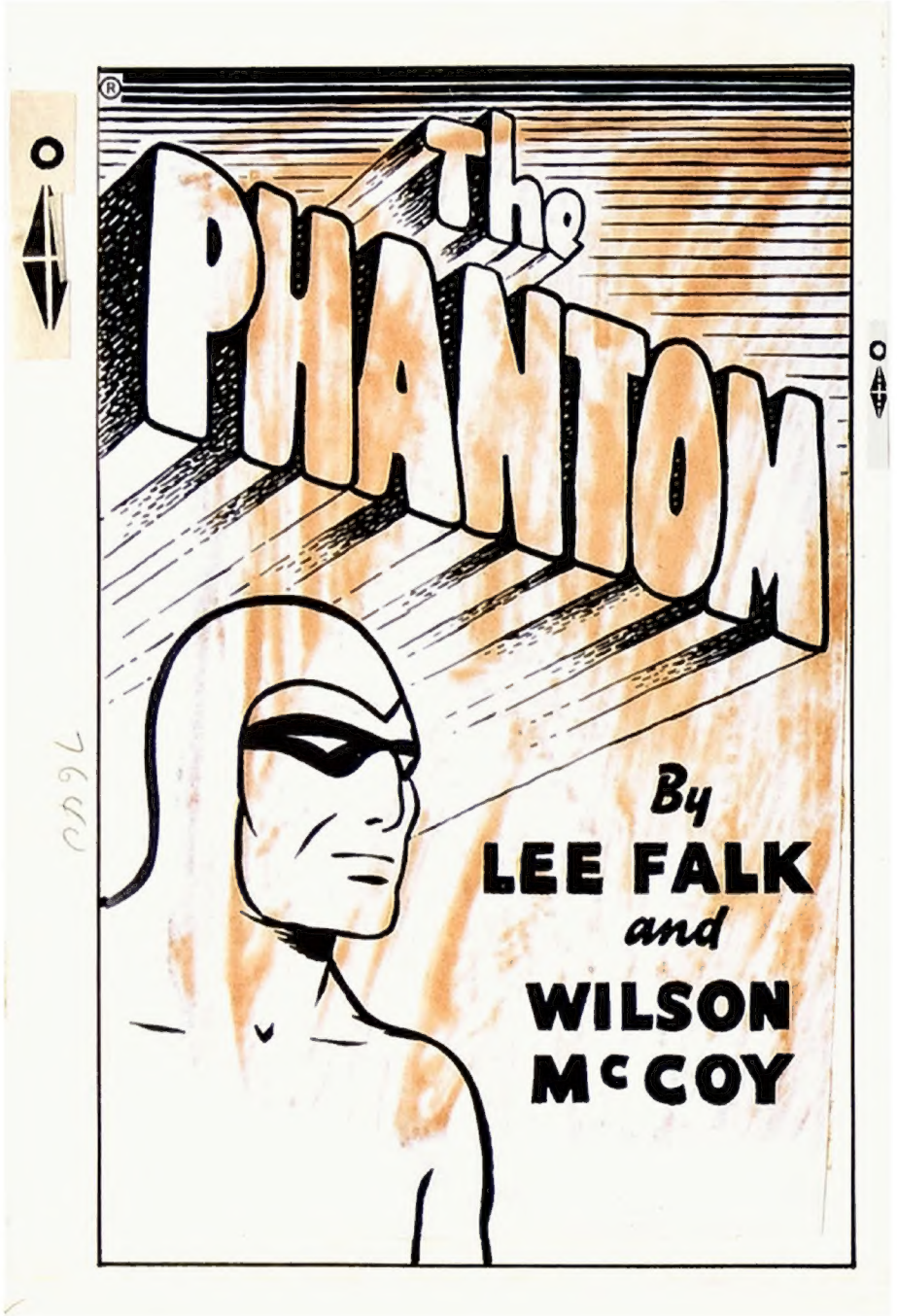
Left: Wilson McCoy *Phantom* illustration. Opposite page: Ray Moore/Wilson McCoy art from the *Phantom* Sunday strip from April 4, 1943, "The Castle in the Clouds" continuity.


I DON'T TRUST THE OLD RASCAL. I SLIPPED THIS KEY FROM HIS BELT. RELEASE THE SOLDIERS QUIETLY. TAKE THEM TO THE GUN-ROOM. THE GUARDS WILL BE BANQUETING.
4





Top: Wilson McCoy original artwork for *The Phantom* daily from October 15, 1943. Bottom: Wilson McCoy original artwork for *The Phantom* daily from January 2, 1954. Opposite page a "stat" of *The Phantom* Sunday logo.



Fine Arts in St. Louis. He found his first work as a layout artist for the D'Arcy Advertising Company. McCoy quickly branched out freelancing as an illustrator, turning out ads and poster designs for Shell Oil, Dr. Pepper, and Coca-Cola. He even created cover art for *Liberty Magazine*. Additionally he later served on the faculty of his Alma Mater, Washington U.

McCoy, who loved to travel all over the world, brought a very different perspective to the world of The Ghost Who Walks. He also made his involvement with the strip a family affair, frequently posing his children for photographs as a reference for the art in the strip. Additionally his wife, Dorothy, pitched in — penciling panel outlines and lettering dialogue.

After many dedicated years on *The Phantom*, McCoy passed away July 20, 1961. In annals of this world-renowned strip McCoy left an indelible mark on its characters and the world they inhabit.

—Ed Rhoades

Ed Rhoades was a longtime Phantom fan — his earliest memories were sitting on his father's knee while being read *The Phantom* strip each day.

After meeting Phantom creator Lee Falk at a Big Eastern Convention in New York City, he began a small fanzine called *Friends of the Phantom* which he published for a decade. As a public school art and creative writing teacher, Ed's interest in The Ghost Who Walks led him to research the artists and writers behind his favorite comics character. He interviewed virtually all of the artists and writers involved with the feature including Lee Falk, Sy Barry, Bill Lignante, Fred Fredericks, Claire Moore (wife of Ray Moore), Wilson McCoy's children, Luke McDonnell, George Wilson, George Olesen, Keith Williams, Paul Ryan, Tony DePaul, Jim Aparo, Graham Nolan, Romano Felmang, Alex Saviuk, and Ulf Granberg.

He was a consultant, contributor, and one of the narrators for "The Phantom" *A&E Biography*. He also provided invaluable assistance with Hermes Press' reprints of the complete *Phantom* comic strips and comic books. Rhoades unexpectedly passed away in a bicycle accident on July 30, 2012.

Chapter One: Bent Beak Broder

the PHANTOM®

THE PHANTOM AND DEVIL ARE AMERICA-BOUND, IN A FERRY BOMBER.
SINCE WHEN ARE DOGS GETTING PRIORITIES ON THESE FERRIES, COLONEL?
THAT'S NO DOG--IT'S A WOLF.
THAT MAN IS THE MASKED COMMANDER OF BENGALI--THE HERO OF THE OOLAN.
YEAH--ON THIS PLANE!
WOW! I WAS A REPORTER BEFORE THIS WAR CAUGHT UP WITH ME. THAT'S A STORY! RADIO IT IN!
Copr. 1943, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved
YEP--GOT HIS WOLF WITH HIM!
FROM THE FERRY BOMBER COMES THE EXCITING NEWS!
SPECIAL:
LEAD: MASKED HERO OF OOLAN ARRIVING AMERICA IN FERRY BOMBER---
MORE---
NEWS WIRE SERVICES SNATCH UP THE STORY--
STOP THE PRESSES! TEAR OUT THE FRONT PAGE! THE COPY'S ON ITS WAY DOWN! USE AN EIGHT-COLUMN BANNER HEADLINE!
--AND TOSS IT INTO EVERY NEWSPAPER OFFICE IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE!
NOBODY KNOWS WE'RE COMING, DEVIL. NOT EVEN DIANA. WE'LL HAVE SOME REST AND QUIET.
Copr. 1943, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved

THE AMERICAN HERALD
MASKED HERO OF OOLAN ON WAY
MYSTERY LEADER LINKED ROMANTICALLY WITH DIANA PALMER, NOTED AVIATRIX AND EXPLORER IN HOSPITAL HERE.
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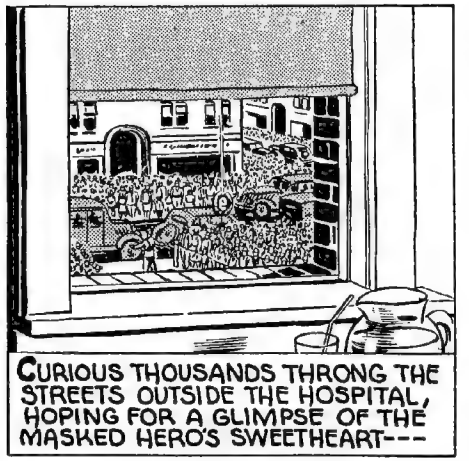
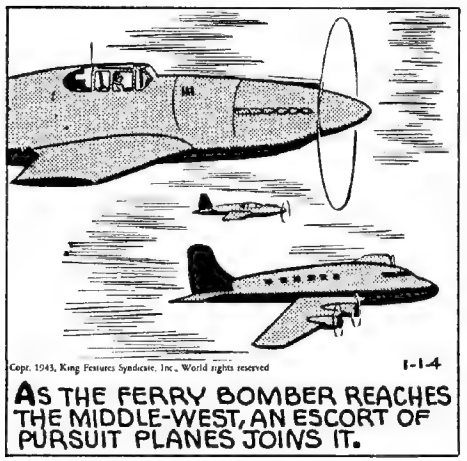
SORRY--SHE'S TOO ILL--NO INTERVIEWS.
1-13


CURIOUS THOUSANDS THRONG THE STREETS OUTSIDE THE HOSPITAL, HOPING FOR A GLIMPSE OF THE MASKED HERO'S SWEETHEART---

BYRON--WHAT IS--ALL THAT --NOISE-?
IT SOUNDS LIKE THE PHANTOM IS COMING TO TOWN!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1-14
AS THE FERRY BOMBER REACHES THE MIDDLE-WEST, AN ESCORT OF PURSUIT PLANES JOINS IT.

DID WE GET TANGLED UP IN MANEUVERS?
NO, SIR. THOSE PLANES ARE YOUR ESCORT.

MY ESCORT?
PARDON ME, SIR. I KNOW WHO YOU ARE. THEY'RE ALL WAITING TO SEE YOU.

WHO'S WAITING?
THE WHOLE NATION, SIR.

YOU'RE IN THE HEADLINES OF EVERY FRONT PAGE OF THE UNITED NATIONS. TREMENDOUS CELEBRATIONS ARE PLANNED FOR YOU.
FROM WHAT I'VE HEARD ON THE RECEIVER, THEY WILL DWARF ANYTHING EVER SEEN. IT STARTS WITH A GIGANTIC PARADE IN THE BIG TOWN.
THEN, A GIGANTIC RECEPTION IN THE CAPITAL, FOLLOWED BY A TOUR OF THE LEADING CITIES! WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THAT, SIR?
1-15
Copr 1943, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved
GIVE ME A PARACHUTE.
TOMORROW: NO KIDDING.
A-A PARACHUTE?
IF YOU PLEASE.
BUT, SIR--YOU CAN'T DO THIS! WHAT'LL I TELL EVERYBODY?
TELL THEM THE REAL HEROES OF OOLAN ARE THOSE NAMELESS JUNGLE WARRIORS.
AS FOR ME, GIVE THE RECEPTION COMMITTEE MY REGRETS. TELL THEM I HAD A HEADACHE.
RECEPTION COMMITTEE!
1-16
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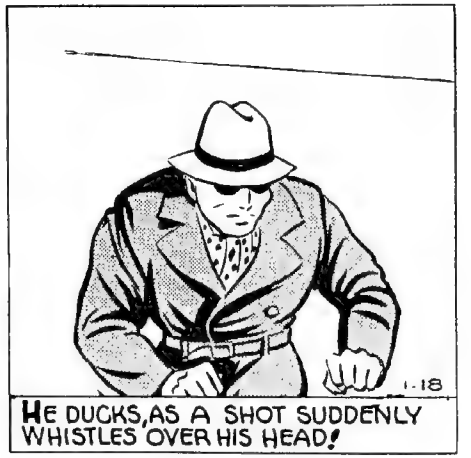
NEXT WEEK: "MR. WALKER"

Copr. 1943, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved
TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND PEOPLE CROWD THE AIRPORT TO GREET THE MASKED HERO--BUT NO HERO--

BASHFUL MASKED HERO OF OOLAN BAILS OUT

I'D RATHER FACE JAPS THAN A RECEPTION COMMITTEE. I'LL GET A REST HERE, IF IT KILLS ME!


1-18
HE DUCKS, AS A SHOT SUDDENLY WHISTLES OVER HIS HEAD!

I SAW HIS PARACHUTE COME DOWN --WENT THAT WAY!
ONE OF THEM NAZI SABOTEURS--

HURRY, DEVIL--IT'LL BE HARD EXPLAINING TO THOSE MEN--THEY LOOK LIKE THEY MEAN BUSINESS!

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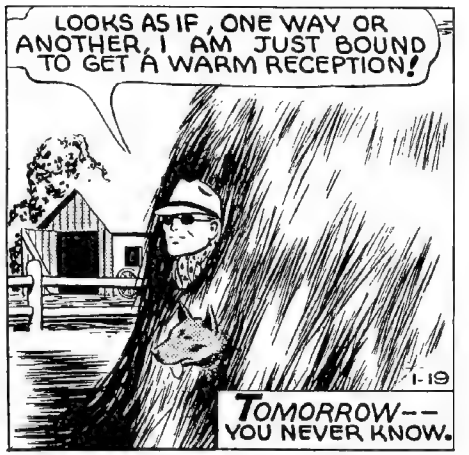
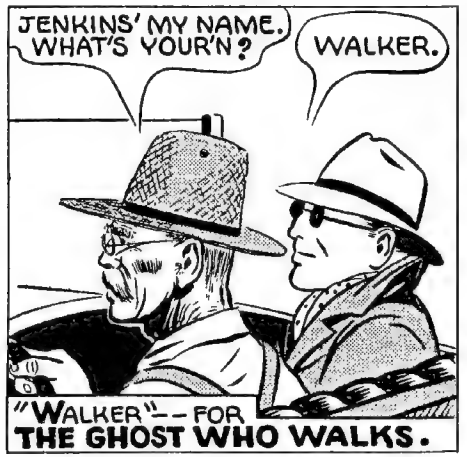

LOOKS AS IF, ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, I AM JUST BOUND TO GET A WARM RECEPTION!
1-19
TOMORROW-- YOU NEVER KNOW.

THE PHANTOM HITCHES A RIDE--

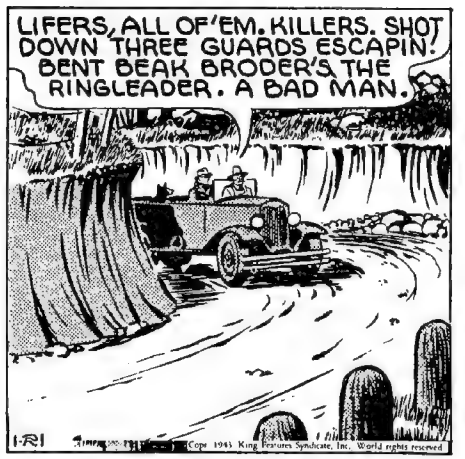
I WOULDN'T-A STOPPED FER YOU, 'CEPT FER THAT DOG.
YOU LIKE DOGS?

KIN TAKE 'EM OR LEAVE 'EM. TAIN'T THAT. THERE WUZ A JAIL-BREAK LAST NIGHT. GANGS IN THESE PARTS. FIGGERED YOU WUZ OKAY, WITH A DOG.

NEVER KNOW WHO YOU'RE LIABLE TO PICK UP.
NOPE, YOU DON'T.

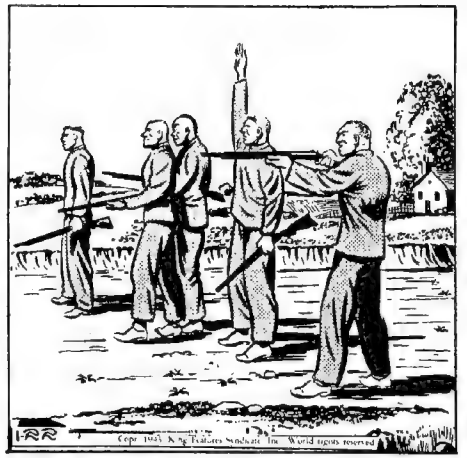

JENKINS' MY NAME. WHAT'S YOUR'N?
WALKER.
"WALKER"-- FOR THE GHOST WHO WALKS.

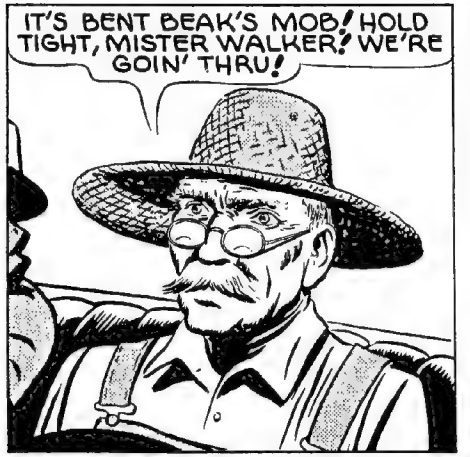
PLENTY EXCITEMENT. SAID THEY SPOTTED A PARACHUTE FELLA. I FIGGER IT'S ONE OF THEM ES-CAPED JAIL-BIRDS. FIVE OF 'EM MADE A BREAK LAST NIGHT.

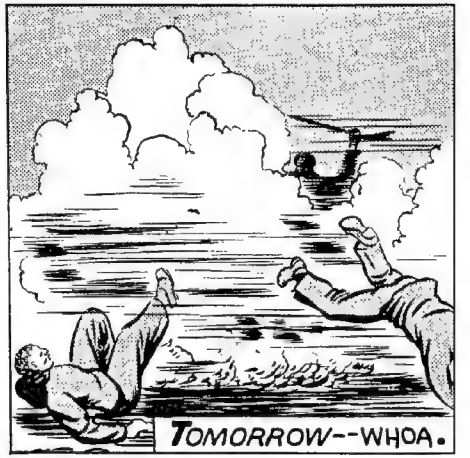

LIFERS, ALL OF 'EM. KILLERS. SHOT DOWN THREE GUARDS ESCAPIN'. BENT BEAK BRODER'S THE RINGLEADER. A BAD MAN.

HERE COMES A JALOPY. GET READY, MUGS.

LOOK--THEM FELLAS AHEAD! WITH GUNS!
THEY'RE NOT OUT FOR A WALK!




IT'S BENT BEAK'S MOB! HOLD TIGHT, MISTER WALKER! WE'RE GOIN' THRU!


TOMORROW--WHOA.

FARMER JENKINS DRIVES THRU BENT BEAK'S GANG OF ESCAPED CONVICTS.

THAT SHOWED 'EM. NEXT TOWN'S TEN MILES. WE'LL HOP RIGHT ALONG TO THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE.
STOP AT THE NEXT TURN.

STOP? ARE YOU CRAZY, WALKER?
WE CAN'T LET KILLERS ROAM LOOSE. I'LL KEEP AN EYE ON THEM WHILE YOU INFORM, THE SHERIFF.

WE'RE NOT STOPPING! HEY, TAKE YOUR HAND OFF THAT BRAKE!
CONTINUED.

WELL--GO ON--GIT YOURSELF KILLED.
PASSING FIVE ESCAPED CONVICTS ON A COUNTRY ROAD, "MR. WALKER" INSISTS ON STOPPING THE CAR.

I'LL KEEP AN EYE ON BENT BEAK AND HIS PALS, WHILE YOU GET THE SHERIFF, MR. JENKINS.
1-25
Copr. 1943, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.

MR. WALKER, YOU'RE EITHER A BLAMED FOOL OR A BRAVE MAN. I AIN'T CERTAIN WHICH.
IT'S SOMETIMES HARD TO TELL THE DIFFERENCE.

'DEVIL', OUR VACATION IS POSTPONED.

BYRON--WHY ISN'T--HE--HERE?
HE BAILED OUT OF THE PLANE. HE DIDN'T WANT TO FACE THE CROWDS WAITING TO SEE HIM.

WHERE--CAN--HE BE?
IF HE ISN'T HERE SOON--THERE'S A GOOD REASON. HE HAS A NOSE FOR TROUBLE.
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1-26
THE PHANTOM IS ON THE TRAIL OF BENT BEAK AND THE OTHER FOUR ESCAPED CONVICTS--"LIFERS" WHO ARE TERRORIZING THE COUNTRYSIDE.

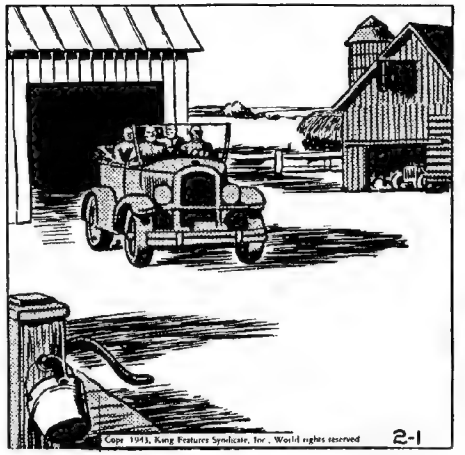
WE CAN'T HANG AROUND HERE, BENT BEAK. THE GUYS IN THAT JALOPY'LL HAVE THE BLOODHOUNDS AFTER US.
YEAH--LET'S CUT ACROST THIS FIELD

LOOKS AS IF BENT BEAK AND HIS BOYS ARE HEADED FOR THAT FARM-HOUSE.
Copr. 1943 King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved
THE STATE-WIDE HUNT CONTINUES FOR BENT BEAK BRODER'S GANG WHO BROKE JAIL LAST NIGHT. THE KILLERS WERE LAST SEEN NEAR SPRINGDALE AND--
THEY--THEY MIGHT BE IN THESE PARTS, PA.
NAW, THEY PROBABLY HIT RIGHT FOR THE BIG CITY.
ROOK, BE SET TO ROLL WITH THIS JALOPY AS SOON, AS WE TAKE CARE OF THEM TWO OLD TIMERS IN THE HOUSE.
OKAY, BENT BEAK.
Copr. 1943, King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved
I FEEL NERVOUS WITH THOSE CONVICTS LOOSE, PA. BE SURE THE LATCH IS ON.
NOW STOP WORRYIN'. LIKELY THOSE FELLOWS ARE HALFWAYS ACROSS THE COUNTRY BY NOW.
HOLD STILL, YOU TWO!

YOU'RE--BENT BEAK BRODER! WHAT--DO YOU WANT? WE HAVE--NOTHING.
YOU GOT A JALOPY--AND WE WANT IT.
NOW--WHAT YOU WANNA GRAB THAT PHONE FOR?
I HADA SLUG THE OLD GEEZER--THE OLD DAME PASSED OUT. TIE 'EM BOTH UP BEFORE THEY COME TO.
1-29
Copr. 1943, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved
GIMME SOME OF THAT CHEESE.
I'LL TAKE THE CHICKEN.
GO OUT TO THE BARN AND SEE WHAT'S HOLDING UP ROOK! HE SHOULDA BROUGHT THAT JALOPY AROUND BY THIS TIME.
BENT BEAK! ROOK'S IN THE BARN--KNOCKED COLD!
WHAT?
1-30
Copr. 1943, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved
WHAT'S THAT--ON HIS JAW?
A DEATH'S HEAD ---
NEXT WEEK: GAS RATIONING

ROOK'S OUT--COLD! WHO--WHO DONE IT?
THAT--THAT DEATH'S HEAD ON HIS JAW? WHAT'S IT --MEAN?

I DON'T KNOW! BUT HE AIN'T NO USE TO US NOW! WE'RE GETTIN' OUTA HERE!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2-1

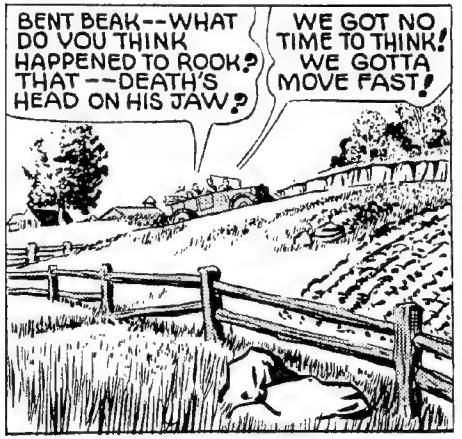
THERE'S JUST ENOUGH GAS LEFT IN THE CARBURETOR TO GET THOSE BOYS OVER THE HILL, "DEVIL". WE'LL BE SEEING THEM!

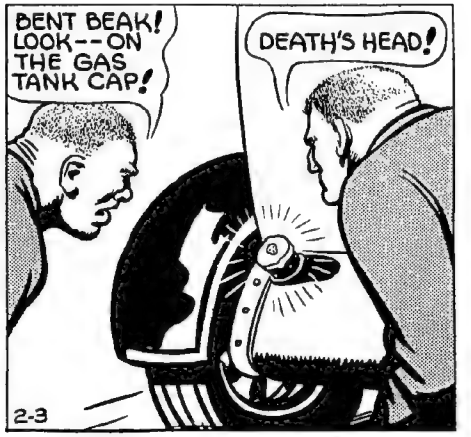
Copr. 1943, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved

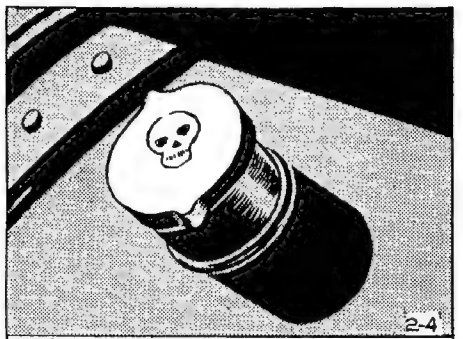
THOSE--HORRIBLE MEN --HIT HIM. IT WAS TERRIBLE--
HE'LL BE ALL RIGHT.

WHO-- IS THAT?
ONE OF BENT BEAK'S MOB. I'LL SEND THE SHERIFF AROUND FOR HIM.

WE CAN--NEVER --THANK YOU ENOUGH. WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
WALKER. GOODBYE.
2-2
"MR. WALKER"--FOR THE GHOST WHO WALKS.







WHEN THE ESCAPED CONVICTS TRY A GETAWAY IN A STOLEN CAR, THEY QUICKLY RUN OUT OF GAS! ON THE CAP OF THE GAS TANK, THEY SEE---

JIM--WHY ARE WE STOPPING?
WE HAVE TO CONSERVE GASOLINE AND TIRES.

YOU DON'T WANT TO BE UNPATRIOTIC, DO YOU?
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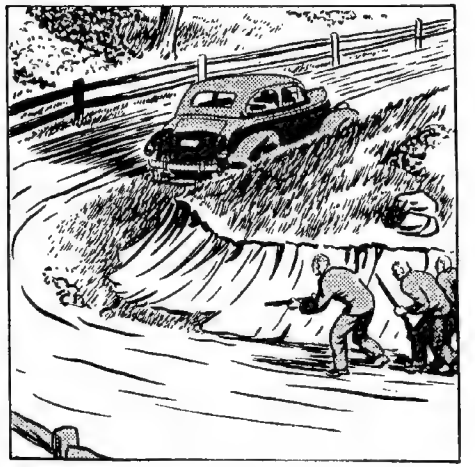
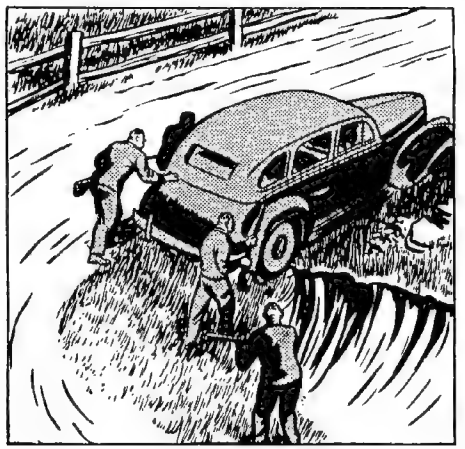
2-5

THERE'S A HAUNT AFTER US!
WE GOTTA FIND ANOTHER JALOPY--QUICK!





COME ON--YOU PUNKS!
TAKE YOUR HANDS OFF OF HER!
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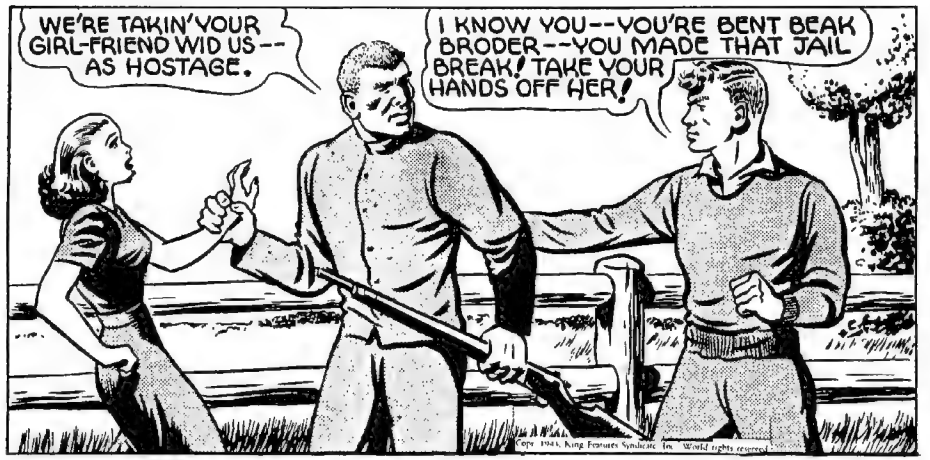
2-6

WE'LL TAKE THIS DAME ALONG WID US --FOR A HOSTAGE.

CONTINUED.


WE'RE TAKIN' YOUR GIRL-FRIEND WID US -- AS HOSTAGE.
I KNOW YOU--YOU'RE BENT BEAK BRODER--YOU MADE THAT JAIL BREAK! TAKE YOUR HANDS OFF HER!
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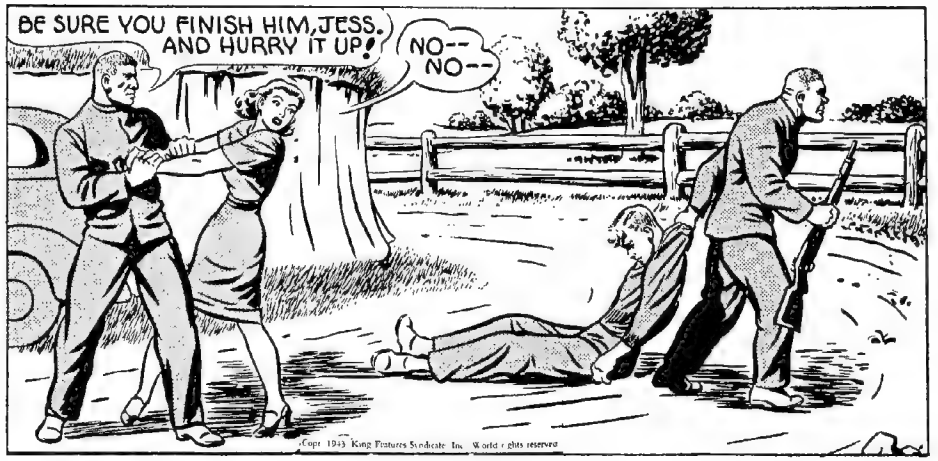
YOU KNOW TOO MUCH!
2-8

JESS, TAKE THIS PUNK INTO THE WOODS AND DRILL HIM!


BE SURE YOU FINISH HIM, JESS. AND HURRY IT UP!
NO-- NO--
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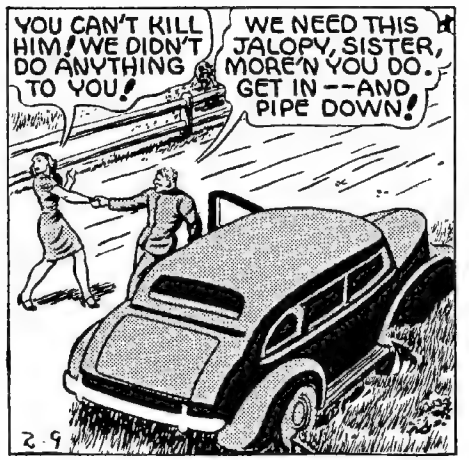
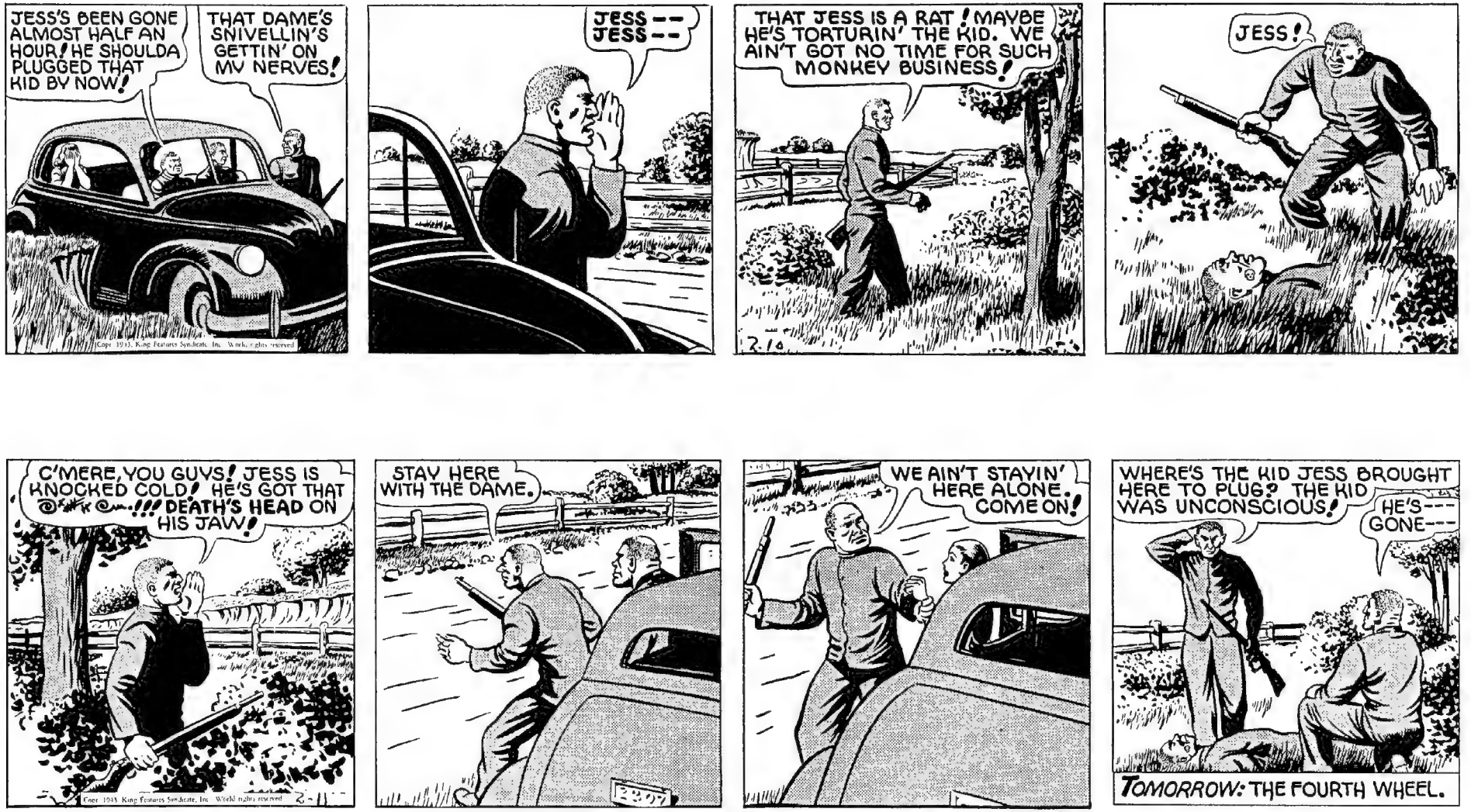
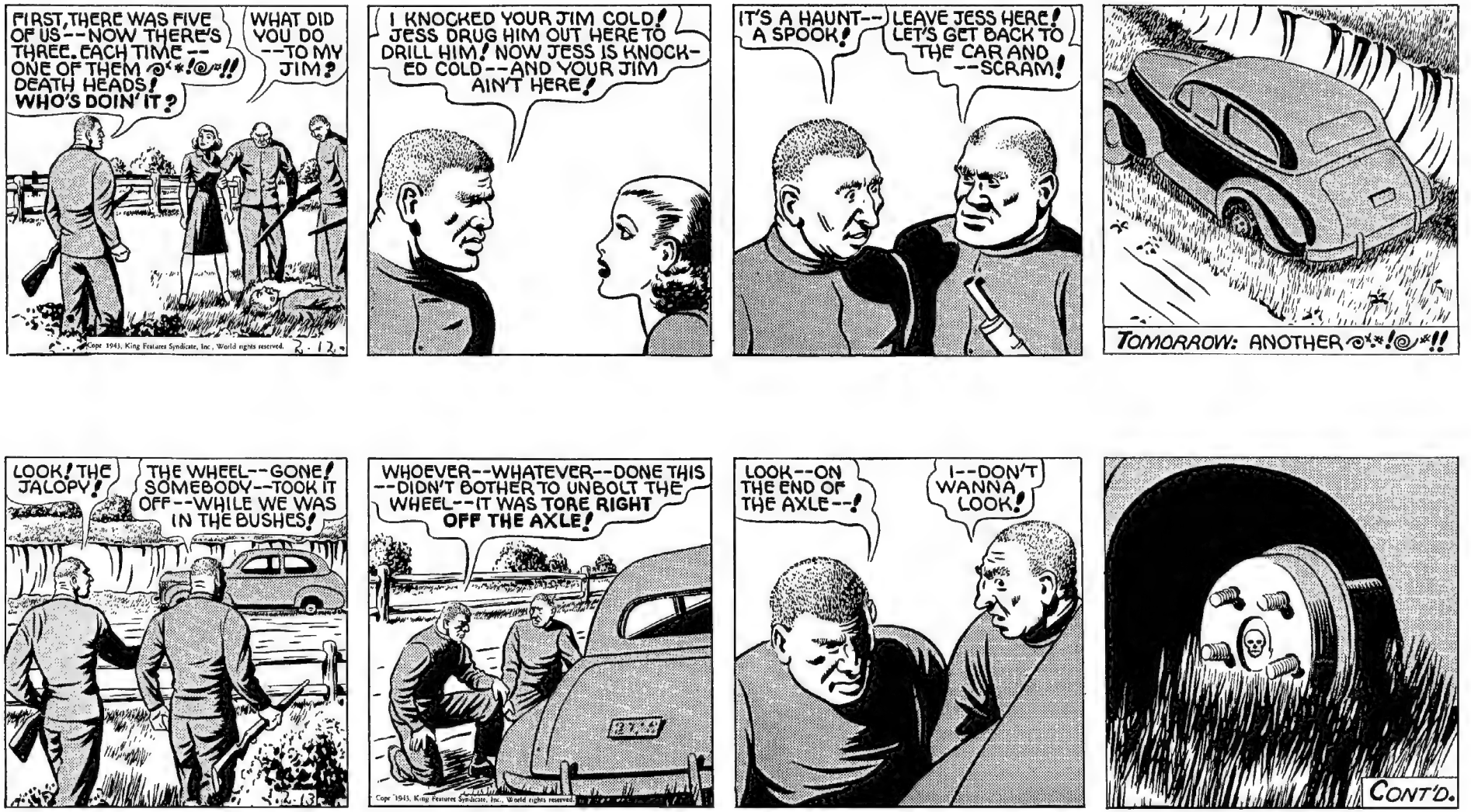

YOU CAN'T KILL HIM! WE DIDN'T DO ANYTHING TO YOU!
WE NEED THIS JALOPY, SISTER, MORE'N YOU DO. GET IN --AND PIPE DOWN!
2-9

WHAT'S KEEPIN' JESS? AIN'T HEARD NO SHOT YET.
HE SHOULDA BEEN BACK BY NOW!
TOMORROW--JESS.


JESS'S BEEN GONE ALMOST HALF AN HOUR! HE SHOULDA PLUGGED THAT KID BY NOW!
THAT DAME'S SNIVELLIN'S GETTIN' ON MY NERVES!
JESS -- JESS --
THAT JESS IS A RAT! MAYBE HE'S TORTURIN' THE KID. WE AIN'T GOT NO TIME FOR SUCH MONKEY BUSINESS!
JESS!
C'MERE, YOU GUYS! JESS IS KNOCKED COLD! HE'S GOT THAT !!! DEATH'S HEAD ON HIS JAW!
STAY HERE WITH THE DAME.
WE AIN'T STAYIN' HERE ALONE. COME ON!
WHERE'S THE KID JESS BROUGHT HERE TO PLUG? THE KID WAS UNCONSCIOUS!
HE'S--- GONE---
TOMORROW: THE FOURTH WHEEL.


FIRST, THERE WAS FIVE OF US--NOW THERE'S THREE. EACH TIME -- ONE OF THEM @*!@*!! DEATH HEADS! WHO'S DOIN' IT?
WHAT DID YOU DO --TO MY JIM?
Copr 1943, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.
I KNOCKED YOUR JIM COLD! JESS DRUG HIM OUT HERE TO DRILL HIM! NOW JESS IS KNOCKED COLD--AND YOUR JIM AIN'T HERE!
IT'S A HAUNT-- A SPOOK!
LEAVE JESS HERE! LET'S GET BACK TO THE CAR AND --SCRAM!
TOMORROW: ANOTHER @*!@*!!
LOOK! THE JALOPY!
THE WHEEL--GONE! SOMEBODY--TOOK IT OFF--WHILE WE WAS IN THE BUSHES!
WHOEVER--WHATEVER--DONE THIS --DIDN'T BOTHER TO UNBOLT THE WHEEL--IT WAS TORE RIGHT OFF THE AXLE!
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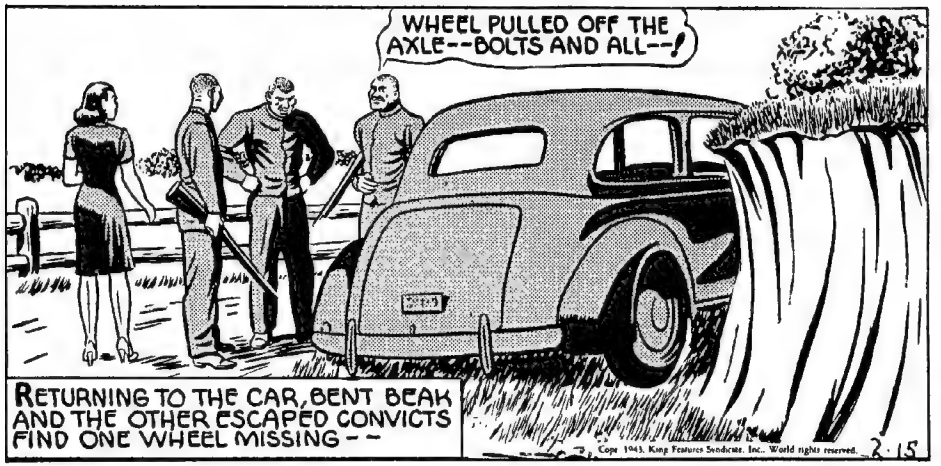
LOOK--ON THE END OF THE AXLE--!
I--DON'T WANNA LOOK!
CONT'D.


WHEEL PULLED OFF THE AXLE--BOLTS AND ALL--!
RETURNING TO THE CAR, BENT BEAK AND THE OTHER ESCAPED CONVICTS FIND ONE WHEEL MISSING--
2·15
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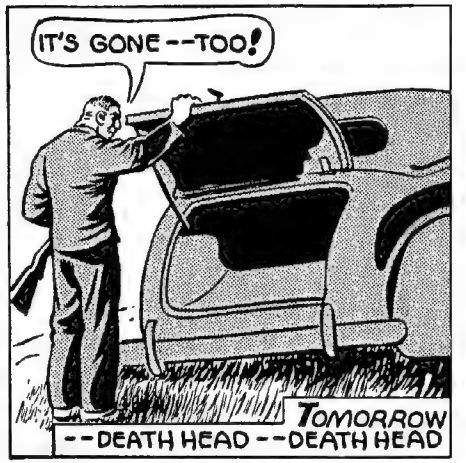
LOOK IN THE TRUNK! THERE SHOULD BE AN EXTRA WHEEL AND TIRE.


IT'S GONE--TOO!
TOMORROW
--DEATH HEAD--DEATH HEAD

WHO COULDA PULLED THAT WHEEL OFF--WITHOUT UNBOLTIN'IT--- AND WHO EMPTIED THE GAS TANK?
DEATH'S HEAD.

WHO SLUGGED ROOK BACK AT THE BARN?
DEATH'S HEAD.

AND WHO SLUGGED JESS AND MADE OFF WITH THE KID IN THE WOODS?
2·16
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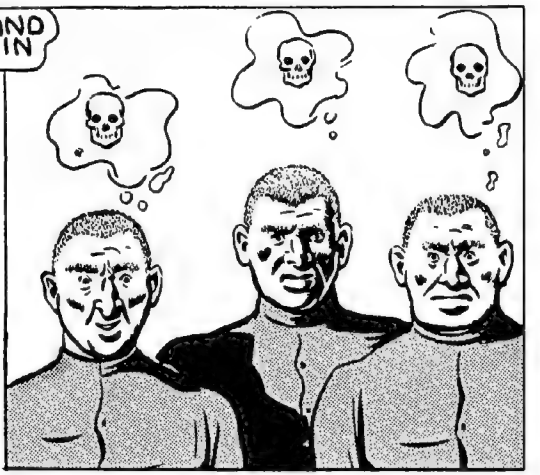

GO SEE IF JESS CAME TO.
I AIN'T GOIN' INTO THEM WOODS, BENT BEAK.
ME, NEITHER.

YELLA SKUNKS! I AIN'T SKEERED OF NOTHINX!

GONE! HE WAS LYIN' THERE --COLDER THAN A HERRING --AN' HE'S GONE!
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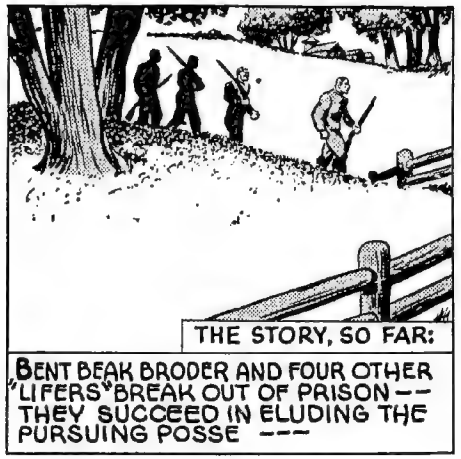
-- WHERE WE RUNNIN'?
AWAY!

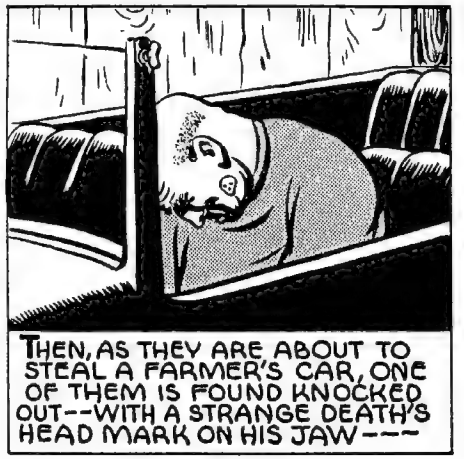
HOW DO YOU FEEL?
KIND OF ROCKY, SIR.

GOSH--HE'S STILL UNCONSCIOUS. WHAT DID YOU HIT HIM WITH--A SLEDGE HAMMER?
Copr 1943, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved

HE BROUGHT ME HERE TO--KILL ME. YOU SAVED MY LIFE! WHO-WHO ARE YOU?
YOUR FRIEND

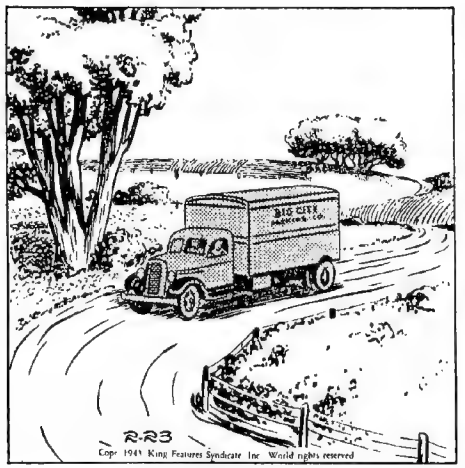
THERE'S A FARM HOUSE DOWN THE ROAD. WHEN THIS PRIZE PACKAGE COMES TO, MARCH HIM THERE, AND WAIT FOR THE SHERIFF.
IF HE ACTS UP, DON'T HESITATE TO USE THIS.
GOLLY--BENT BEAK AND THOSE OTHER LUGS HAVE GOT MY GIRL, SUSIE --AS A HOSTAGE!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT SUSIE --I'LL SEE THAT SHE'S NOT HARMED.
SAY--WHO'LL I SAY CAUGHT THIS GUY? WHO ARE YOU?
TELL THE SHERRIF YOU CAUGHT HIM MY NAME'S WALKER. SO LONG
"WALKER"--FOR THE GHOST WHO WALKS.
BENT BEAK! HOW FAR WE RUNNIN' TO? WE AIN'T SLEPT FER TWO DAYS!
WE GOTTA GET TO THE CITY!
I--CAN'T GO ANY FARTHER--
YOU---! SOON AS WE GET A HIDE-OUT--WE'LL GET RID A YOU!
BENT BEAK--CAN'T WE WALK A LITTLE?
KEEP GOIN'.
THE HARDENED, ESCAPED CONVICTS ARE DRIVEN ON BY HAUNTING FEAR--FEAR OF SOMETHING THEY HAVEN'T SEEN--
--HAUNTED BY THE MYSTERIOUS, UNSEEN NEMESIS THAT HAS REVEALED IT'S PRESENCE ONLY BY THE SIGN OF THE SKULL--THE MARK OF THE PHANTOM!
CONT


THE STORY, SO FAR:
BENT BEAK BRODER AND FOUR OTHER "LIFERS" BREAK OUT OF PRISON -- THEY SUCCEED IN ELUDING THE PURSUING POSSE ---


THEN, AS THEY ARE ABOUT TO STEAL A FARMER'S CAR, ONE OF THEM IS FOUND KNOCKED OUT--WITH A STRANGE DEATH'S HEAD MARK ON HIS JAW---

THEY KIDNAP A GIRL AS A HOSTAGE--BUT THE DEATH'S HEAD DOGS THEIR TRAIL--

R-RR
Copr 1945, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.
NOW, ONLY THREE ARE LEFT -- HAUNTED BY A NEMESIS THAT NONE OF THEM HAS EVEN SEEN --
TOMORROW--THE HITCH-HIKER.


BIG CITY
R-R3
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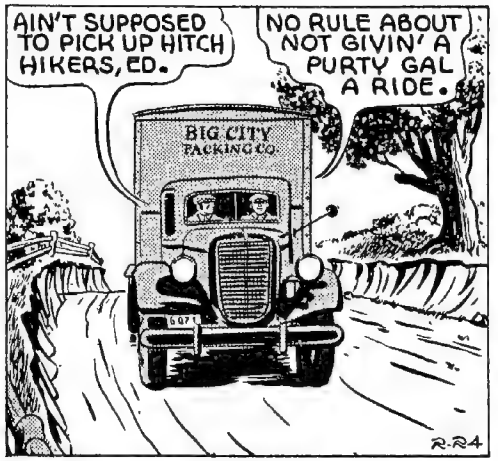
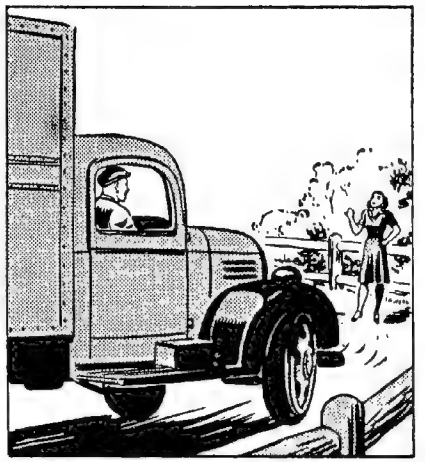
DO LIKE I TOLD YOU--AND REMEMBER, I GOT THIS SHOTGUN POINTING AT YOU!

LOOKIT--AHEAD. HITCH-HIKER!
LOOKS PURTY!


AIN'T SUPPOSED TO PICK UP HITCH HIKERS, ED.
NO RULE ABOUT NOT GIVIN' A PURTY GAL A RIDE.
BIG CITY PACKING CO.
R-R4



GOIN' OUR WAY, HONEY?
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YEAH!

BENT BEAK BRODER!
WE'RE TAKIN' THE TRUCK. PILE OUT!

NOT LIKELY NOBODY'LL FIND YOU HERE FER A COUPLE MONTHS. AN' SHET UP! YOUSE ARE LUCKY WE DON'T PLUG YOU!
R-R5
Copr. 1943, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved

LISTEN AT 'EM CUSS!
THEM TRUCK-DRIVERS IS AWFUL PROFANE.

BENT BEAK, THAT SCHNOZZLE OF YOURS IS A GIVEAWAY! YOU OUGHTA HAVE IT OVERHAULED!
CAN I HELP IT, IF I'M FAMOUS?

HEY, BENT BEAK! LOOKIT! IT'S AN ICE-BOX ON WHEELS! FULLA BIG BEEFS!
BIG CITY PACKING CO.
NOW AIN'T THAT NICE! WE GOT ENOUGH MEDIUM RARES IN THERE FER A YEAR!
MEANWHILE, BACK IN THE WOODS--WHERE THE DRIVERS HAVE BEEN LEFT TO THEIR FATE--
JAG AN' ME AND THE SKIRT'LL SIT IN FRONT. CLIMB IN BACK, SNIFF, WITH THE BEEF.
AW, NO, BENT BEAK. IT'S COLD IN THERE.
GO AHEAD. NO ROOM IN FRONT. ANYHOW, IT AIN'T THAT COLD. JAG'LL SWITCH OFF WITH YOU.
AW---
CONTINUED.

SEE HOW SNIFF'S DOIN' IN THE ICEBOX WITH THEM BEEFS.
3-1
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HOW YOU DOIN' BACK THERE, SNIFF? DON'T GOBBLE UP ALL THE BEEF.
I'M FREEZIN' IN HERE! HOW ABOUT LETTIN' ME UP FRONT?
BIG CITY PACKING CO.
SHUT THAT THING, JAG. THAT COLD AIR'S BLOWIN' ON MY NECK.
OKAY.
HEY--THIS AIN'T NO JOKE! I'LL FREEZE IN HERE! I AIN'T NO DRESSED BEEF!
3-R
Copr. 1943, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved
LISTEN AT 'IM YELL. YOU CAN SWITCH WITH HIM IN A FEW MILES, JAG.
AW, NO, BENT BEAK. IT AIN'T GOOD FOR MY SINUS.
TY
CO.

3-3
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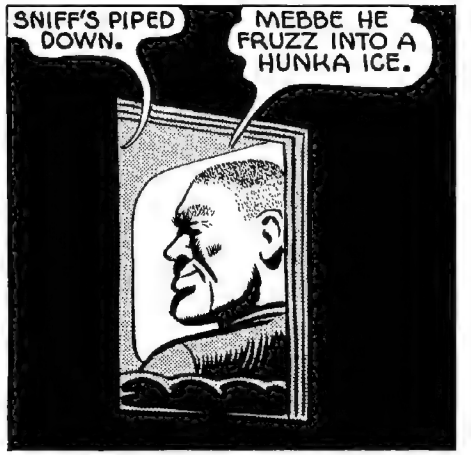
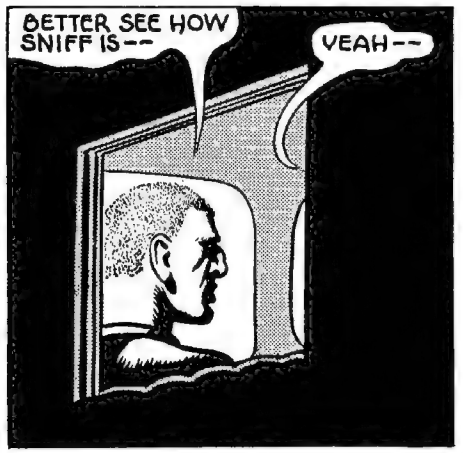

SNIFF'S PIPED DOWN.
MEBBE HE FRUZZ INTO A HUNKA ICE.


BETTER SEE HOW SNIFF IS--
VEAH--

HEY--SNIFF--SNIFF. CAN'T SEE IN THERE. IT'S DARK. SNIFF--

MOOOOOOOOOO

MOOOOOOOOOO
3-4
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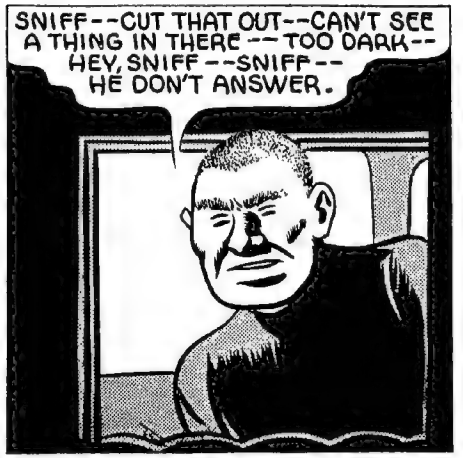
WHAT--- GOES ON--?
IT'S SNIFF -- TRYIN' TO ACT --FUNNY--
NOOOOOOOOOO...


SNIFF--CUT THAT OUT--CAN'T SEE A THING IN THERE -- TOO DARK-- HEY, SNIFF --SNIFF-- HE DON'T ANSWER.

SOMETHIN' SCREWY! WE'RE STOPPIN' TO HAVE A LOOK!
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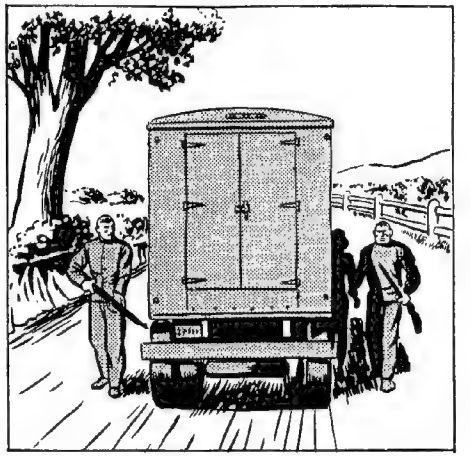
3-5



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3-6

READY WHEN I OPEN, JAG -- JUST IN CASE --IF SNIFF'S BEEN PLAYIN' JOKES, I'LL --

CONTINUED.

BIG CITY
PACKING CO.
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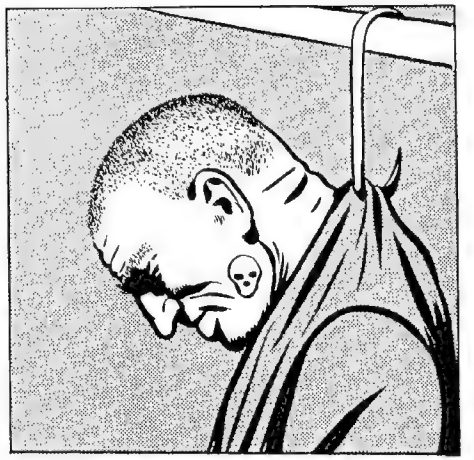
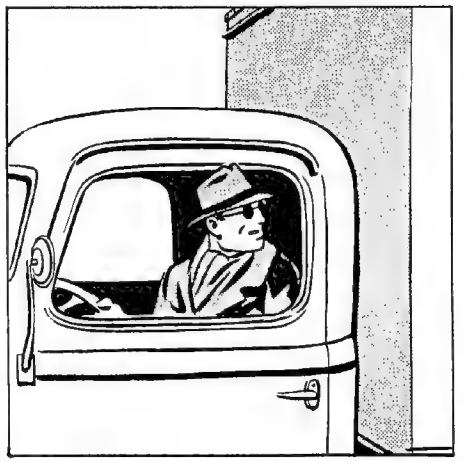
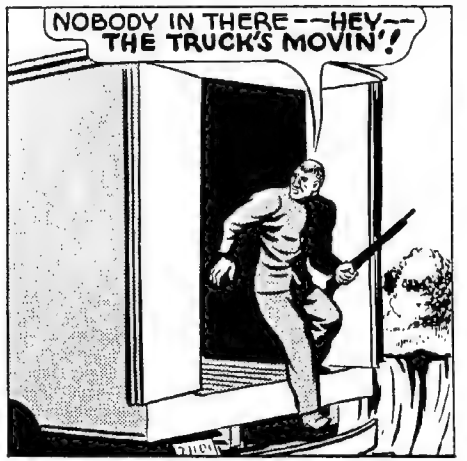
WHEN BENT BEAK AND JAG OPEN THE MEAT TRUCK, THEY FIND SNIFF HANGING BY HIS COLLAR FROM A HOOK!
3-8

IS HE-- DEAD?
NO--JUST KNOCKED COLD---LOOK--ON HIS JAW---

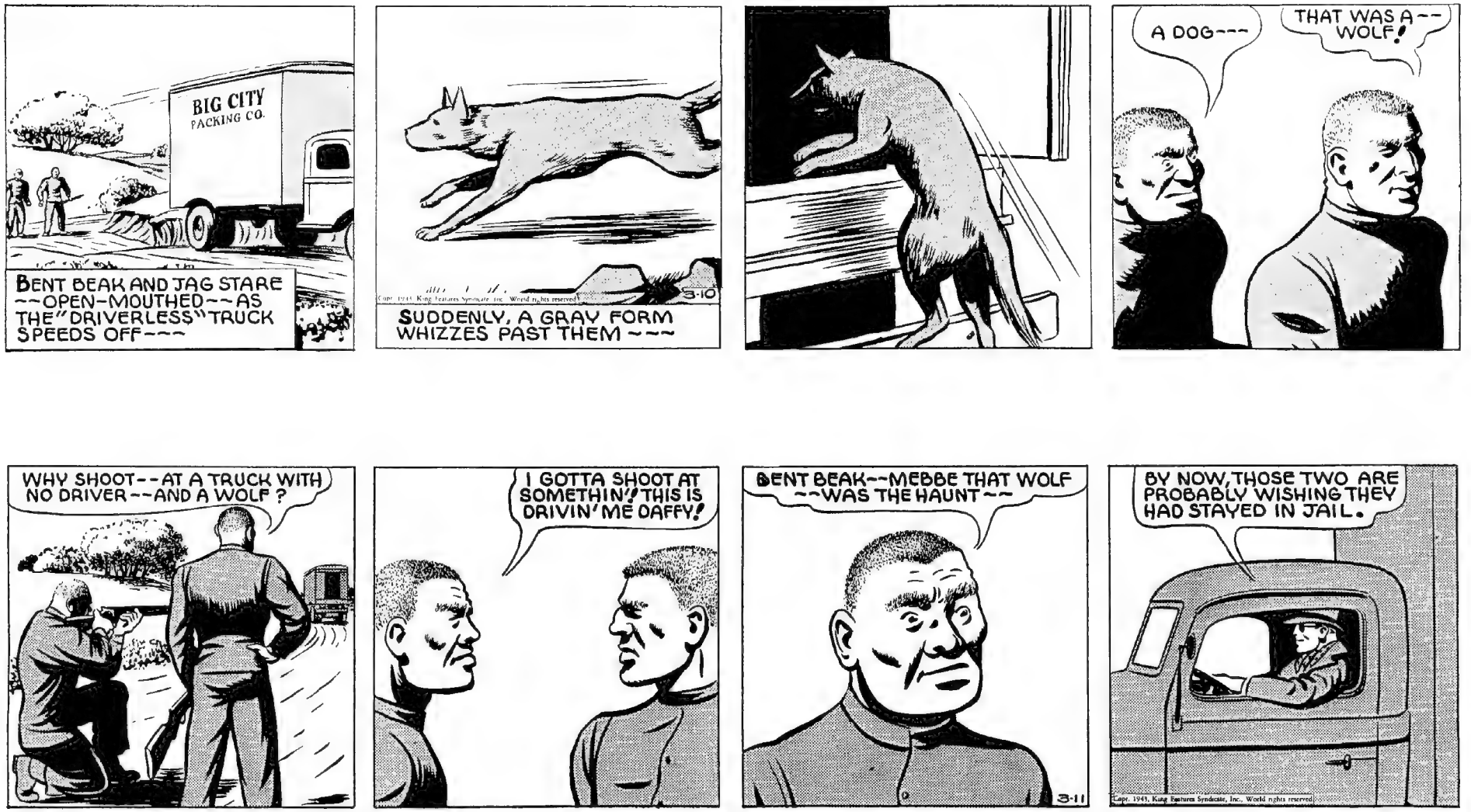


THE HAUNT-- DONE IT--!
I'LL LOOK INSIDE THE TRUCK--




NOBODY IN THERE--HEY--THE TRUCK'S MOVIN'!

3-9


BIG CITY PACKING CO.
BENT BEAK AND JAG STARE --OPEN-MOUTHED--AS THE "DRIVERLESS" TRUCK SPEEDS OFF---
SUDDENLY, A GRAY FORM WHIZZES PAST THEM ---
3-10
A DOG---
THAT WAS A-- WOLF!
WHY SHOOT--AT A TRUCK WITH NO DRIVER--AND A WOLF ?
I GOTTA SHOOT AT SOMETHIN'! THIS IS DRIVIN' ME DAFFY!
BENT BEAK--MEBBE THAT WOLF --WAS THE HAUNT--
3-11
BY NOW, THOSE TWO ARE PROBABLY WISHING THEY HAD STAYED IN JAIL.
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SO YOU HITCHED A RIDE, EH, "DEVIL?" WONDER WHAT JAG AND BENT BEAK THOUGHT OF YOU?
WE'VE GONE FAR ENOUGH. WE DON'T WANT TO LOSE SIGHT OF THOSE TWO.
WE'LL PARK YOU SOMEWHERE, AND THEN GET BACK TO WORK.
HAUNTS KIN TAKE DIFFERENT SHAPES--THAT WOLF--THAT WOLF --
STOP BLUBBERIN' AND KEEP GOIN'!
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3-12
3-13
A MAN!
THERE'S A PIECE OF PAPER ON HIS CHEST!
This will introduce Sniff... one of Bent Beak gang of escaped convicts. Hold for sheriff.
TWO LEFT 'DEVIL', AND THEY'VE GOT THAT GIRL! WE'LL HAVE TO HURRY!
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CONT'D.

THIS IS WHERE WE TOOK THE TRUCK, "DEVIL".
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3-15

THEY'VE HAD A GOOD HEAD START. WE'LL HAVE TO CATCH UP BEFORE DARK--OR WE MAY LOSE THEM COMPLETELY!

JUNGLE-TRAINED, THE PHANTOM FOLLOWS THE TRAIL, AS EASILY AS IF IT WERE A CHALK-LINE.

THE HAUNT WAS A WOLF--IT MIGHT TURN UP AGAIN LIKE A BIRD--OR A RABBIT OR--
SHUT UP WITH THAT STUFF!

WE WAS FOOLS TO COME IN THE WOODS, BENT BEAK! ANYTHING CAN HOP OUT AT YOU-- IN THE WOODS!

I CAN'T GO ANY FARTHER--I WON'T GO ANY FARTHER-- LET ME STAY HERE--

YOU'RE STAYIN' WID US! IF ANYTING--HAUNT OR NO HAUNT--COMES NEAR US --I'LL PLUG YA!
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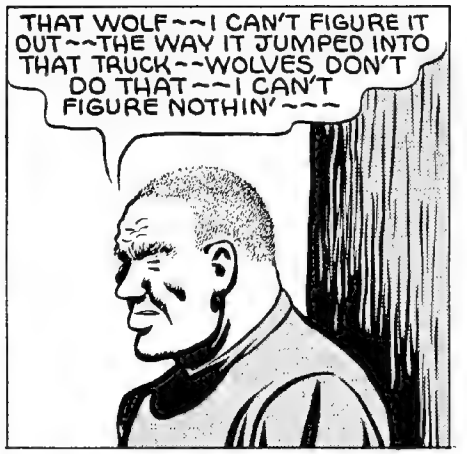
3-16

THEY'RE NOT FAR AHEAD NOW, "DEVIL".

WE'LL TAKE A REST HERE FOR A MINUTE.

THERE WAS FIVE OF US-- NOW THERE'S ONLY TWO. JAG--WE GOTTA STICK TOGETHER--
CLOSE!


THAT WOLF--I CAN'T FIGURE IT OUT--THE WAY IT JUMPED INTO THAT TRUCK--WOLVES DON'T DO THAT--I CAN'T FIGURE NOTHIN'---

GEE-IT USED TO BE NICE IN THE CLINK--A GUY ALWAYS KNEW WHERE HE WAS--THERE--
3-17

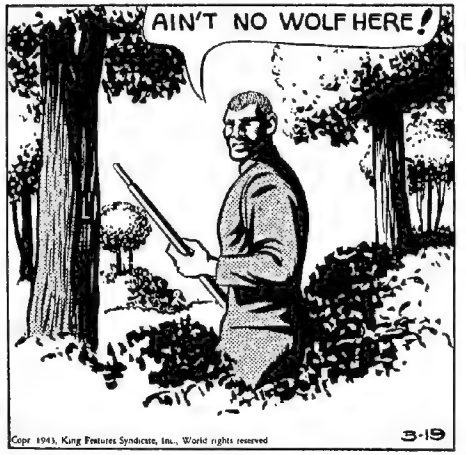
SAY--YOU AIN'T A BAD-LOOKIN TOMATO!

HOW ABOUT A LITTLE KISS -HUH?-
LET GO OF ME!

WHY--YOU LITTLE----! SLAPPIN' ME! I DON'T TAKE THAT FROM DAMES! I OUGHTA BREAK YOUR NECK!

3-18

ARE YOU CRAZY? DEY CAN HEAR DAT SHOT FOR MILES!
BENT BEAK-- I SEEN IT-- THE WOLF-- THE WOLF---


AIN'T NO WOLF HERE!
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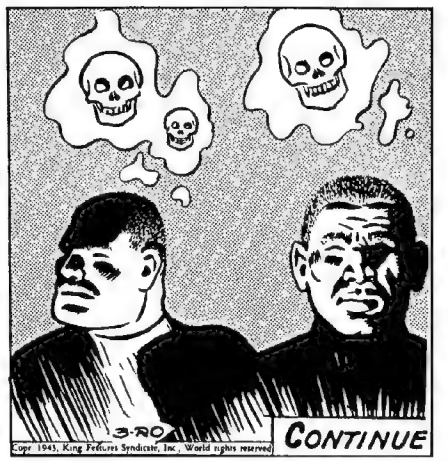
3-19

YOU'RE GETTIN' SLAP-HAPPY.
I SEEN IT ---IT WAS LOOKIN' RIGHT AT ME- GRINNIN'--

THERE AIN'T NO END TO THESE WOODS-- THEY GO ON --FER EVER.
WE'RE LOST.

WE'LL SLEEP HERE.

BENT BEAK--WHO YOU THINK'LL GET THE NEXT DEATH HEAD--YOU --OR--ME--?
NUTTIN'S GETTIN' ME!


3-20
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CONTINUE

GET SOME SHUTEYE, TOMATO. WE GOT HEAVY TRAVELLIN' TO DO TOMORROW--

JAG, YOU'N ME'LL TAKE TURNS GUARDIN'. WAKE ME UP IN AN HOUR.

I DON'T LIKE BEIN'--THE ONLY ONE AWAKE. IT'S LIKE-- BEIN' ALL ALONE---

E-YOW--

WHAT YOU SHOOTIN' FOR? WANNA WAKE UP THE COUNTRY-SIDE?
I HEARD SOMETHIN' ---RIGHT OVER THERE--!

IT'S AN OWL --YOU LUG!
YEAH--COULD BE-- THE HAUNT--TAKIN' A NEW SHAPE-- SITTIN' THERE -- WATCHIN'---

LOOKIT, JAG~~GET THIS TROU YOUR NOGGIN! THERE AIN'T NO HAUNT! ANYTHING WHAT CAN SLAP DOWN JESS, ROOK, AND SNIFF~~AND DRIVE OFF WID A TRUCK~~AIN'T NO HAUNT!
3-24

IT'S A MAN ~~SEE! FOLLOWIN' US! THE ONLY REASON WE AIN'T SEEN HIM IS ACCOUNT OF THIS DAME!

HE KNOWS THAT THE MINUTE HE STICKS HIS HEAD OUT~~ I'LL DRILL HER! LONG AS WE GOT HER~~WE'RE SAFE!

THAT MAKES SENSE. IT MEANS I MUST GET THE GIRL AWAY FROM THEM~~IN A HURRY!
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NONE OF US ARE SLEEPIN'! WE GOTTA STAY AWAKE 'TIL WE REACH TOWN!

THEY'RE BOTH NERVOUS AS CATS. I'VE GOT TO GET THAT GIRL AWAY FROM THEM~~ BEFORE THEY SHOOT HER!
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THIS IS GOING TO BE A CLOSE PLAY! THESE CLOTHES ARE LIABLE TO GET IN MY WAY.

THIS VINE IS STRONG, BUT THIN. I'LL HAVE TO WEAVE A FEW TOGETHER.
3-25
WHAT'S HE GOING TO DO?

NIGHT IN THE WOODS--THE JUNGLE-TRAINED PHANTOM WORKS RAPIDLY, WEAVING VINES TOGETHER--

THIS TREE OUGHT TO BE RIGHT.

WAIT THERE FOR ME, DEVIL.
3-26
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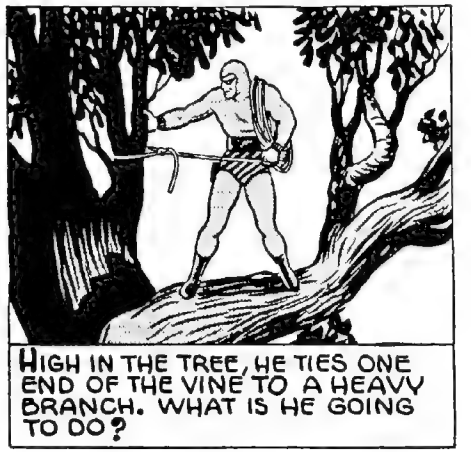
HIGH IN THE TREE, HE TIES ONE END OF THE VINE TO A HEAVY BRANCH. WHAT IS HE GOING TO DO?

TYING ONE END OF THE SPLICED VINES TO A TREE BRANCH--THE PHANTOM MOVES SILENTLY TO ANOTHER TREE, HIGH ABOVE THE GROUND---

GUESS I COULD SHOOT BOTH OF THEM--BUT THAT'S THE SHERIFF'S JOB---BESIDES, THE GIRL MIGHT GET HURT--
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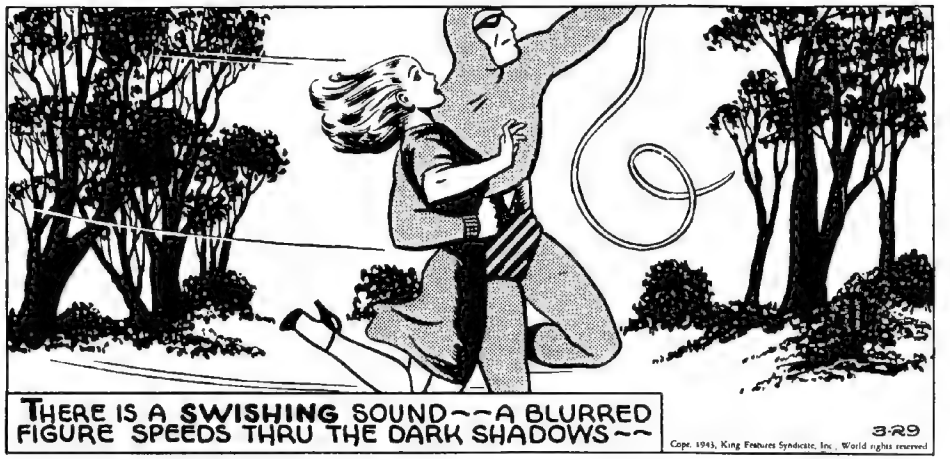
NO--I HAVE TO GET THAT GIRL AWAY FROM THEM BEFORE I CAN DO ANYTHING ELSE!
3-27

CAN THE PHANTOM GET THE GIRL FROM THESE TWO ARMED KILLERS?
CONTINUED.

FIRE'S LOW. BETTER GET SOME STICKS, JAG.
YOU DO IT, BENT BEAK. I DON'T FEEL LIKE GOIN' OUT INTO THE DARK.


THERE IS A SWISHING SOUND~~A BLURRED FIGURE SPEEDS THRU THE DARK SHADOWS~~
3-29
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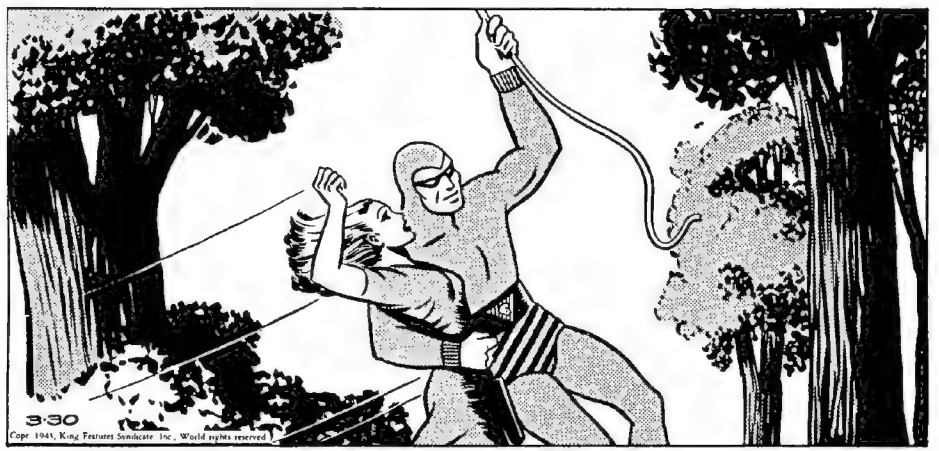
3-30
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THE PHANTOM FINISHES THE GIANT SWING, LETS GO OF THE VINE ~~AND FLIES INTO THE DARK BUSHES ~~

IT HAPPENED SO FAST ~~ A BLURRED OBJECT WHIZZING THRU THE NIGHT ~~SUSIE WAS THERE ~~NOW SHE'S GONE--!

WHERE'D--SHE GO--RIGHT FROM UNDER OUR NOSES--?
SOMETHIN'-- SWOSHED --BY--

IT WAS A BIG--BAT! THE HAUNT--!

STAY PUT, YOU LUG!
I AIN'T STAYIN' HERE--LET GO-- LET GO ME--!
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3-31

LOOKIT, JAG--WE GOTTA HANG TOGETHER--! I DON'T KNOW WHAT DIS TING IS--BUT WE GOTTA HANG TOGETHER--!

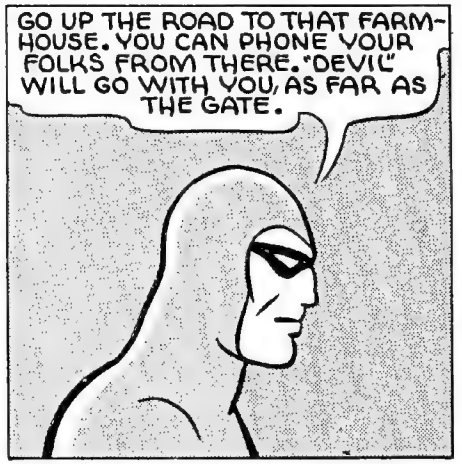
WE CAN GO, NOW. IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE THEY'RE LEAVING THAT FIRE, JUST YET.
4-1

WHO--WHO ARE YOU?
YOUR FRIEND, SUSIE. YOU'VE HAD A HARD TIME, BUT YOU'RE SAFE NOW.

I'M GOING TO SEE THAT YOU GET HOME TO YOUR FOLKS.
HOME--! DO YOU MIND IF I--CRY --A LITTLE--?

GO AHEAD, CHILD. YOU HAVE A GOOD CRY COMING TO YOU.

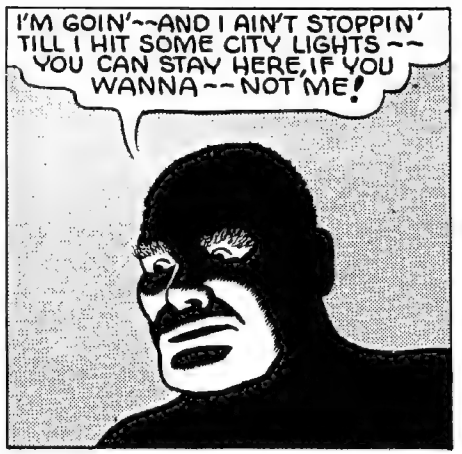
BY THE WAY, YOUR BOY-FRIEND, JIM, IS OKAY.
THANK GOODNESS! WE WERE JUST PARKED ON THE ROAD--WHEN THOSE--CONVICTS--KIDNAPPED US!


GO UP THE ROAD TO THAT FARM-HOUSE. YOU CAN PHONE YOUR FOLKS FROM THERE. "DEVIL" WILL GO WITH YOU, AS FAR AS THE GATE.

I HAVE TO KEEP AN EYE ON JAG AND BENT BEAK.
YOU--YOU SAVED MY LIFE. WHO--ARE YOU?

JUST TELL JIM THAT YOU MET "MR. WALKER". GOODBYE.
"WALKER"--FOR THE GHOST WHO WALKS!

I'M NOT STAYIN' HERE BY THIS FIRE, BENT BEAK! WHATEVER IT WAS PICKED THE DAME OFF, CAN PICK US OFF, TOO!


I'M GOIN'--AND I AIN'T STOPPIN' TILL I HIT SOME CITY LIGHTS--YOU CAN STAY HERE, IF YOU WANNA--NOT ME!

OKAY, JAG--I'LL GO WID YOU!

NEXT WEEK: THE LAST MAN.

NOW DON'T WORRY, JAG! WE'RE GONNA GET OUTA DESE BLASTED WOODS~~

WE'LL HEAD RIGHT FOR THE BIG CITY, JAG~~

AN' WHEN WE GET THERE~~

~~NO "HAUNT" 'LL EVER FIND US, JAG.
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4-5

I FIGGER WE GOTTA CHANCE TO~~JAG~~!

JAG~~JAG~~WHERE ARE YOU~~?

HE WAS RIGHT ALONG SIDE ME ~~ TILL WE WENT AROUND THAT TREE~~~

4-6
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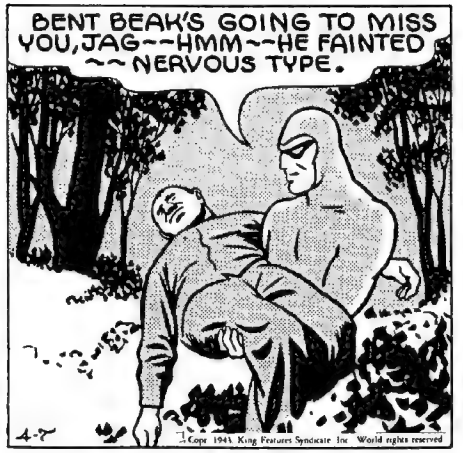
IT GOT HIM! IT GOT HIM!


BENT BEAK'S GOING TO MISS YOU, JAG~~HMM~~HE FAINTED ~~ NERVOUS TYPE.
4-7
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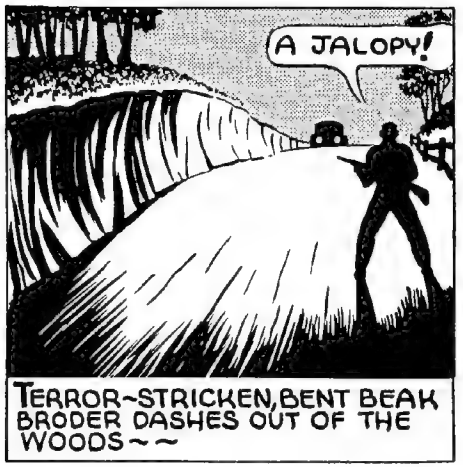
NOW ~~TO CATCH UP WITH BENT BEAK~~

THE "HAUNT" GOT HIM~~SNATCHED HIM FROM NOWHERES~~!
AND THE "HAUNT" HAS FINALLY "GOTTEN" TOUGH BENT BEAK~~ WHO DIDN'T BELIEVE IN HAUNTS.


A JALOPY!
TERROR-STRICKEN, BENT BEAK BRODER DASHES OUT OF THE WOODS~~

OUT!
HE HALTS THE CAR~~AND~~

WHAT A BREAK! I'LL GET TO THE CITY~~ I'LL BE SAFE THERE!
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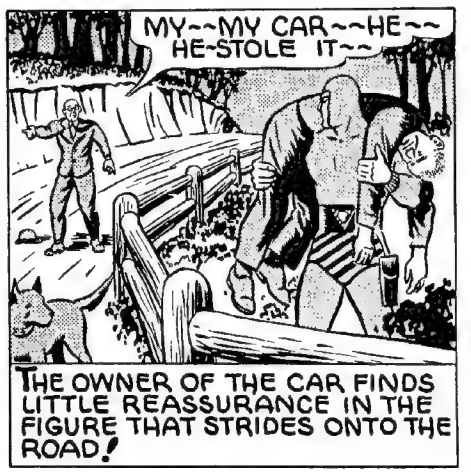
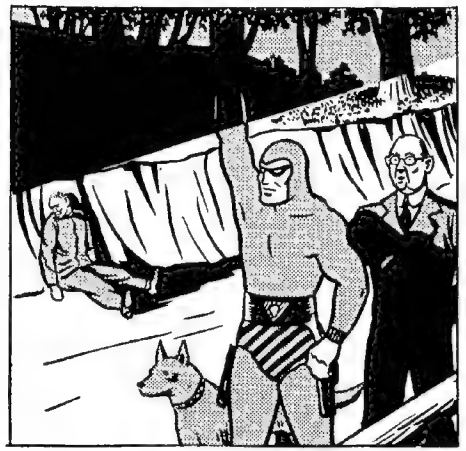
4-8


MY~~MY CAR~~HE~~ HE-STOLE IT~~
THE OWNER OF THE CAR FINDS LITTLE REASSURANCE IN THE FIGURE THAT STRIDES ONTO THE ROAD!



IS THIS A ~~ HOLD UP?
NO, SIR. WE'RE IN A HURRY. I'LL EX-PLAIN, AS WE GO.

WE'RE FOLLOWING BENT BEAK BRODER, THE ESCAPED CONVICT. THAT HEAP IN THE BACK SEAT IS JAG ~~ ONE OF HIS GANG.

AH ~~ THAT'S BENT BEAK'S TAIL-LIGHT ~~ AHEAD! FASTER!
GOIN' FAST AS I KIN. SAY ~~ MY WIFE WON'T BE-LIEVE NONE OF THIS ~~ SPECIALLY ABOUT YOU!
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4-9

WE'LL NEVER CATCH UP WITH HIM ~~ AH ~~ THERE'S A TRAIN ~~ HE CAN'T BEAT IT TO THE CROSSING ~~!
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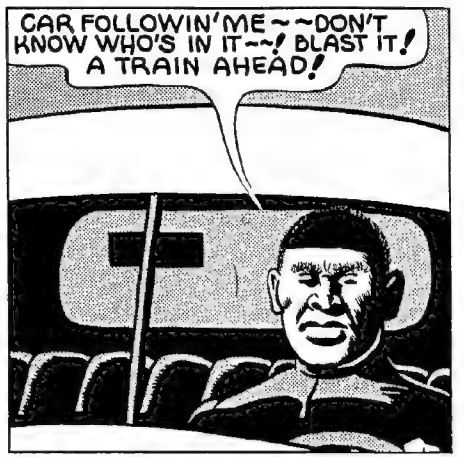
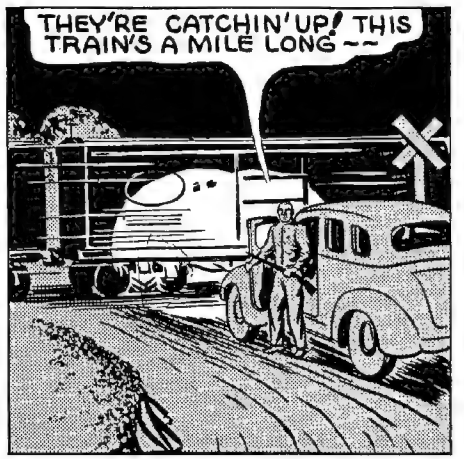
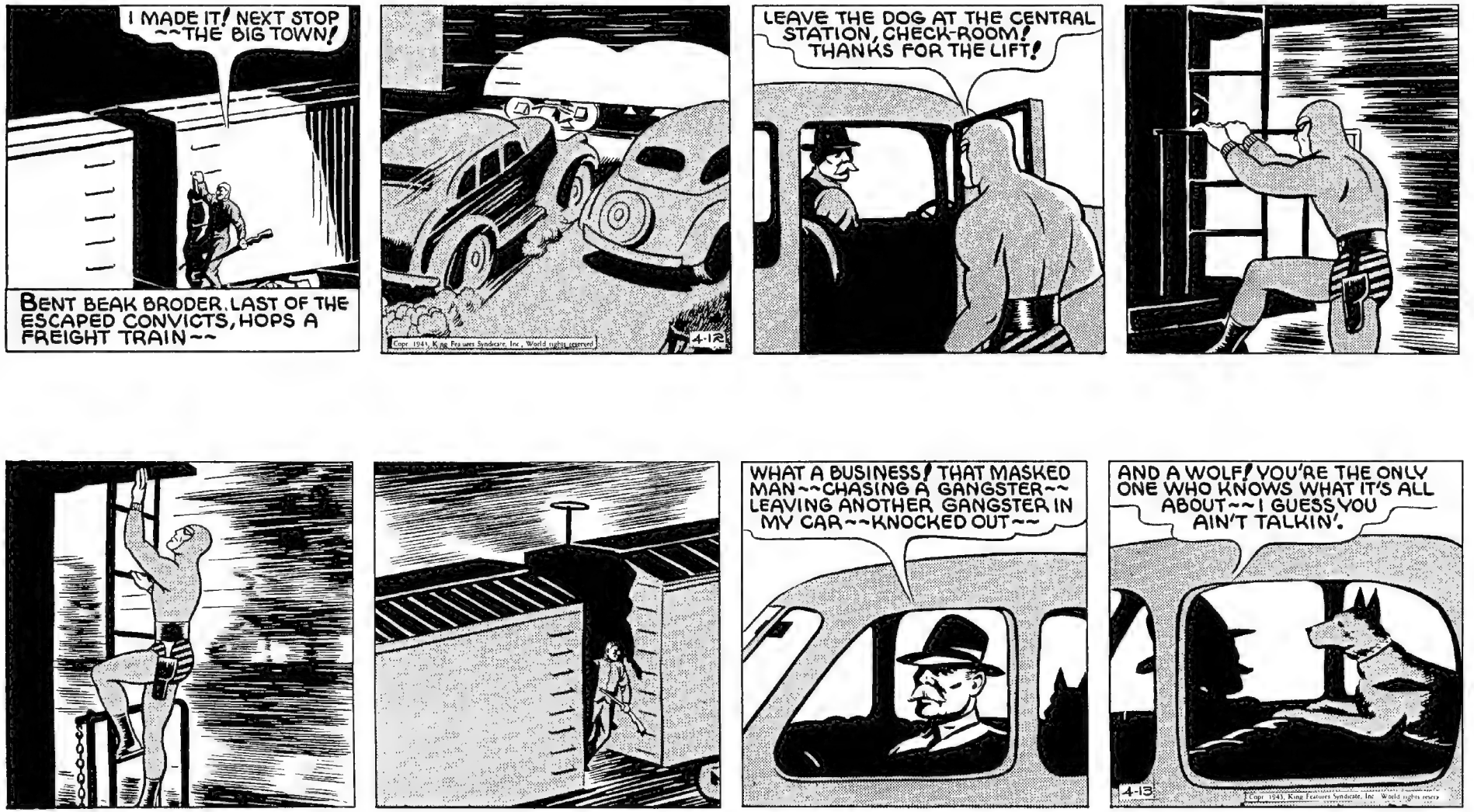
4-10


CAR FOLLOWIN' ME ~~ DON'T KNOW WHO'S IN IT ~~! BLAST IT! A TRAIN AHEAD!


THEY'RE CATCHIN' UP! THIS TRAIN'S A MILE LONG ~~

MY ONLY CHANCE ~~ MADE IT!
CONTINUED.


I MADE IT! NEXT STOP ~~THE BIG TOWN!
BENT BEAK BRODER, LAST OF THE ESCAPED CONVICTS, HOPS A FREIGHT TRAIN~~
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4-12
LEAVE THE DOG AT THE CENTRAL STATION, CHECK-ROOM! THANKS FOR THE LIFT!
WHAT A BUSINESS! THAT MASKED MAN~~CHASING A GANGSTER~~ LEAVING ANOTHER GANGSTER IN MY CAR~~KNOCKED OUT~~
AND A WOLF! YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT~~I GUESS YOU AIN'T TALKIN'.
4-13
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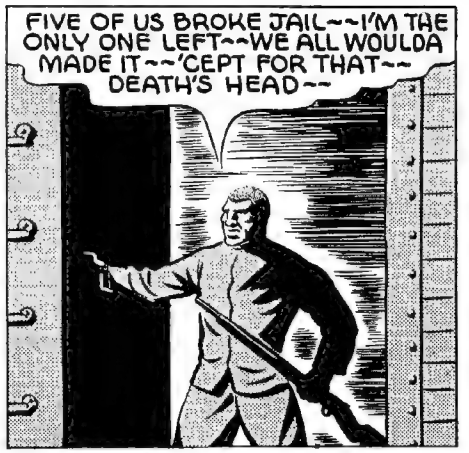
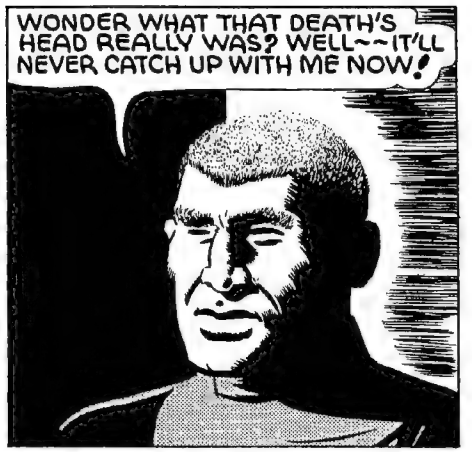
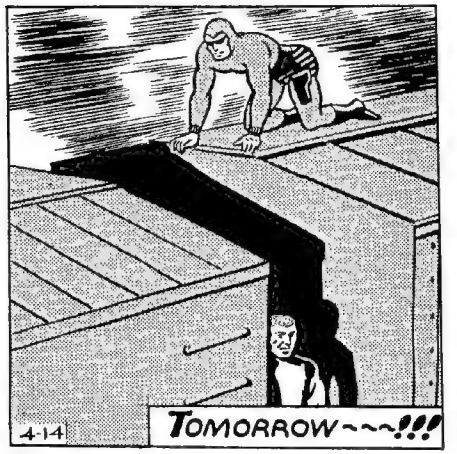

FIVE OF US BROKE JAIL~~I'M THE ONLY ONE LEFT~~WE ALL WOULDA MADE IT~~'CEPT FOR THAT~~ DEATH'S HEAD~~

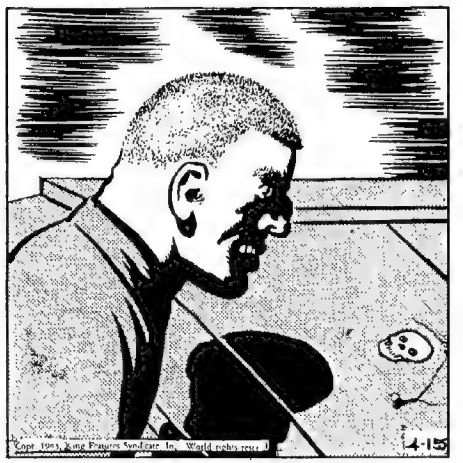

WONDER WHAT THAT DEATH'S HEAD REALLY WAS? WELL~~IT'LL NEVER CATCH UP WITH ME NOW!

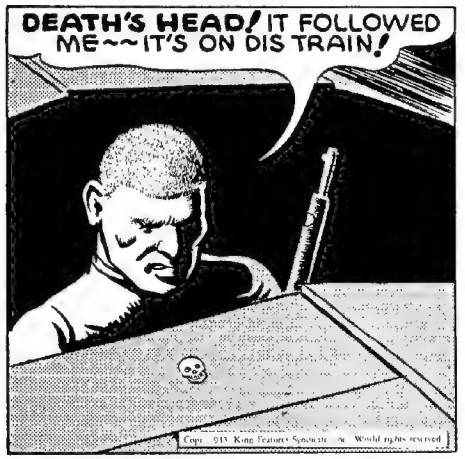

4-14
TOMORROW~~~!!!

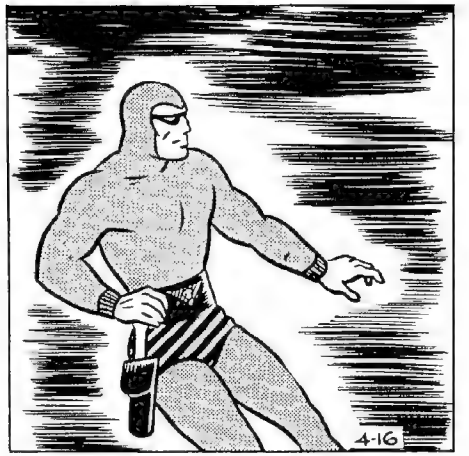
AIN'T FAR FROM THE BIG TOWN NOW~~I'LL GET TO MY HIDE-OUT ~~GET INTO SOME REGULAR DUDS~~THEN NOBODY'LL EVER FIND BENT BEAK BRODER!

I KEEP THINKIN' ABOUT THAT DEATH'S HEAD! JAG FIGGERED IT WAS A HAUNT! HA~~IT GOT 'EM ALL BUT ME~~

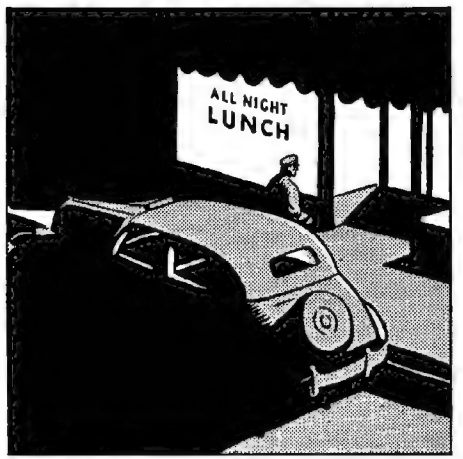
BUT I GIVE IT THE SLIP~~FER GOOD! NOBODY KIN OUT-SMART ME~~I~~HUH~~

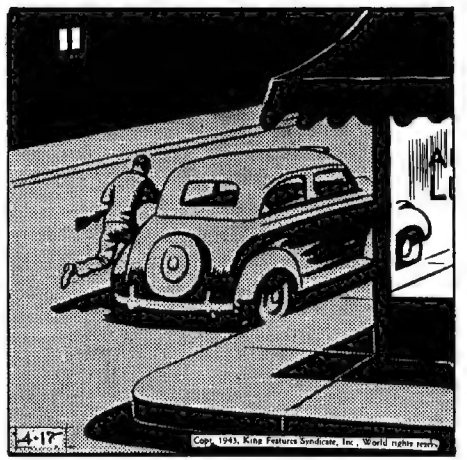

4-15


DEATH'S HEAD! IT FOLLOWED ME~~IT'S ON DIS TRAIN!


4-16

GOTTA GET TO MY ROOM~~SAFE THERE~~DEATH'S HEAD WON'T FIND ME~~~


ALL NIGHT LUNCH


4-17

IKE, AIN'T THAT YOUR HACK?
WHY~~SOMEBODY'S HOOKIN' IT! HEY~~
NEXT WEEK: THE HOME STRETCH.

HEY--THAT'S MY CAB!
STOP, THIEF!

WHY--THE !@*@%!!

NUTTIN' KIN STOP ME NOW! I GOT AWAY FROM EVERYTING-- DEATH'S HEAD INCLUDED!
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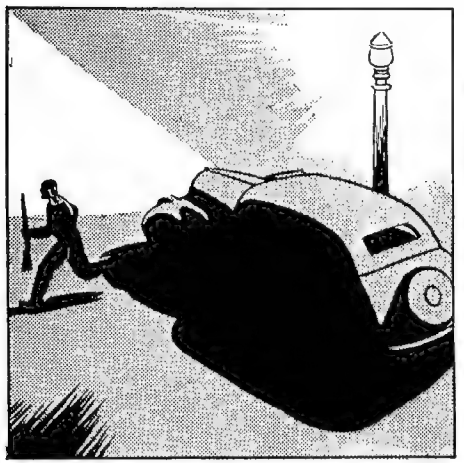
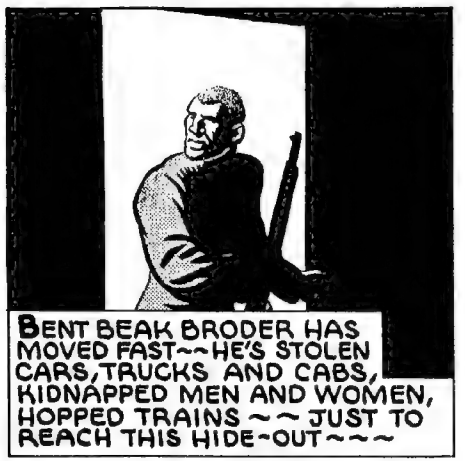
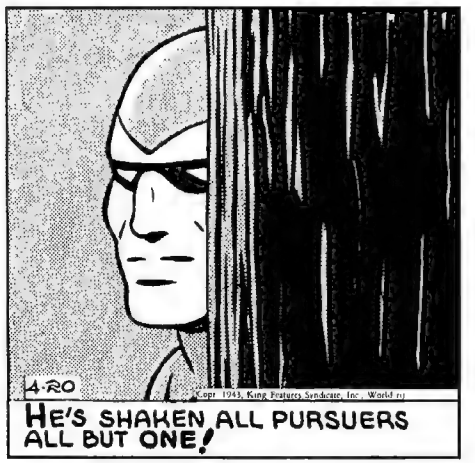
4-19



ONLY A LITTLE MORE--AN' I'LL BE SAFE--SAFE---


BENT BEAK BRODER HAS MOVED FAST--HE'S STOLEN CARS, TRUCKS AND CABS, KIDNAPPED MEN AND WOMEN, HOPPED TRAINS -- JUST TO REACH THIS HIDE-OUT---


4-20
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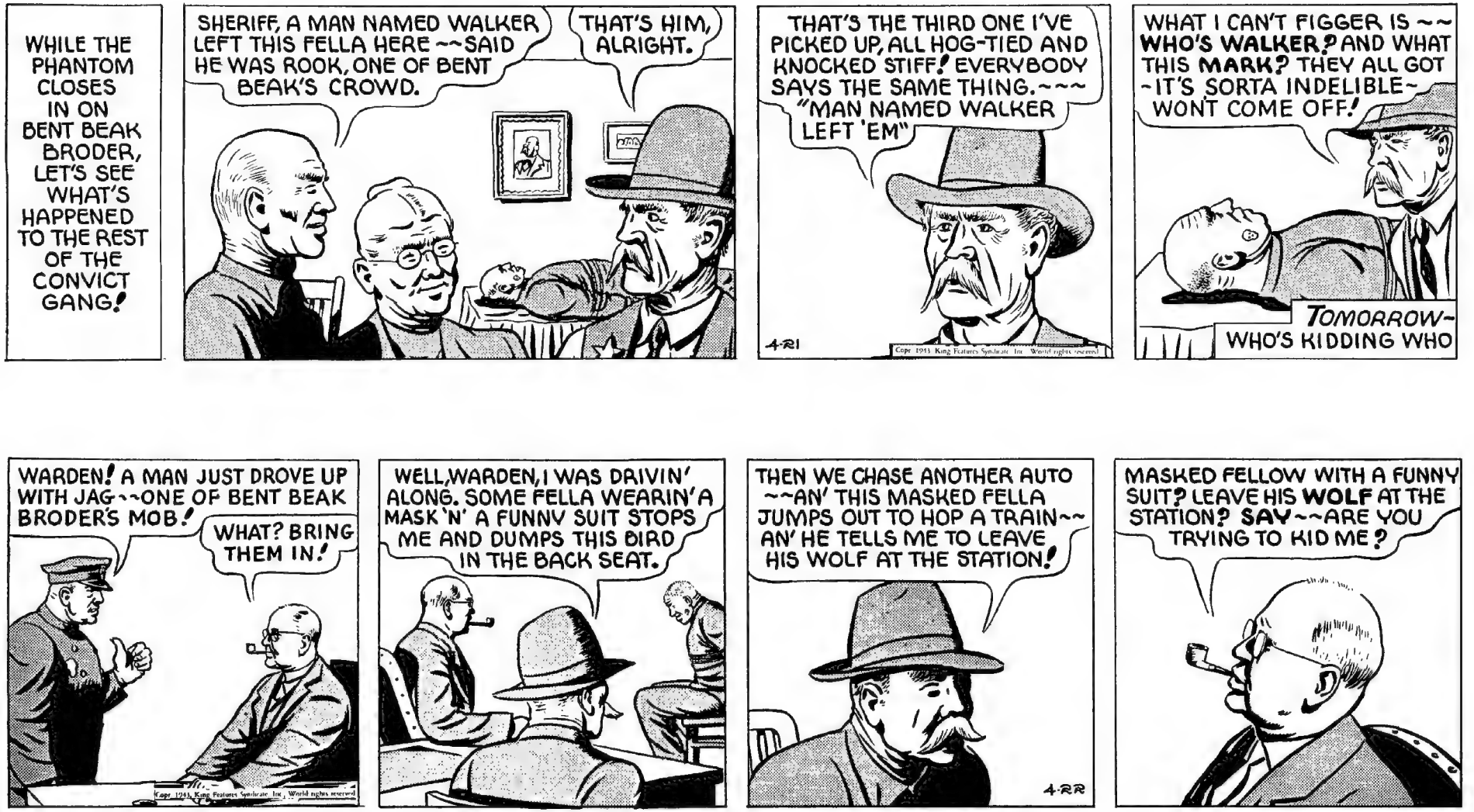
HE'S SHAKEN ALL PURSUERS ALL BUT ONE!


WHILE THE PHANTOM CLOSES IN ON BENT BEAK BRODER, LET'S SEE WHAT'S HAPPENED TO THE REST OF THE CONVICT GANG!
SHERIFF, A MAN NAMED WALKER LEFT THIS FELLA HERE ~~SAID HE WAS ROOK, ONE OF BENT BEAK'S CROWD.
THAT'S HIM, ALRIGHT.
THAT'S THE THIRD ONE I'VE PICKED UP, ALL HOG-TIED AND KNOCKED STIFF! EVERYBODY SAYS THE SAME THING.~~~ "MAN NAMED WALKER LEFT 'EM"
4-21
WHAT I CAN'T FIGGER IS ~~ WHO'S WALKER? AND WHAT THIS MARK? THEY ALL GOT ~IT'S SORTA INDELIBLE~ WONT COME OFF!
TOMORROW- WHO'S KIDDING WHO
WARDEN! A MAN JUST DROVE UP WITH JAG~~ONE OF BENT BEAK BRODER'S MOB!
WHAT? BRING THEM IN!
WELL, WARDEN, I WAS DRIVIN' ALONG. SOME FELLA WEARIN' A MASK 'N' A FUNNY SUIT STOPS ME AND DUMPS THIS BIRD IN THE BACK SEAT.
THEN WE CHASE ANOTHER AUTO ~~AN' THIS MASKED FELLA JUMPS OUT TO HOP A TRAIN~~ AN' HE TELLS ME TO LEAVE HIS WOLF AT THE STATION!
4-22
MASKED FELLOW WITH A FUNNY SUIT? LEAVE HIS WOLF AT THE STATION? SAY~~ARE YOU TRYING TO KID ME?

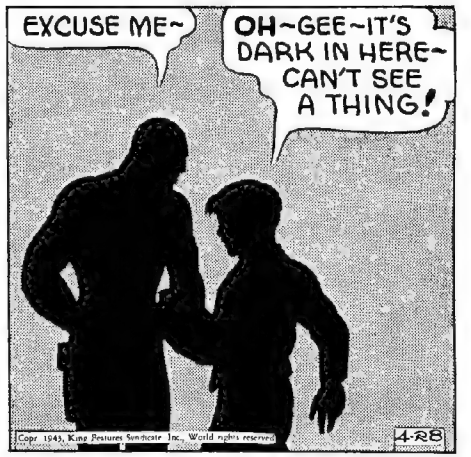
THAT'S A WOLF, ALRIGHT! AND THAT'S JAG IN THE CHAIR~~ NO DOUBT ABOUT THAT!
SOMEBODY HIT HIM MIGHTY HARD~~AND WHAT'S THAT MARK ON HIS JAW?~~LOOKS LIKE A SKULL!
PHONE, WARDEN.
4-23
WARDEN, THIS IS THE SHERIFF OF FAIRFAX COUNTY. I GOT THREE OF BENT BEAK BRODER'S MOB~~ FELLOW NAMED WALKER LEFT THEM ALL OVER THE COUNTY FOR ME TO PICK UP~~~
WHO IS THIS WALKER?
NOBODY KNOWS THESE BIRDS ARE JUST COMING TO~ THEY ALL GOT FUNNY MARKS ON THEIR JAWS LIKE SKULLS.
4-24
AHHHH~~SAFE ~~~AT LAST!
NEXT WEEK: FOOD FOR THOUGHT

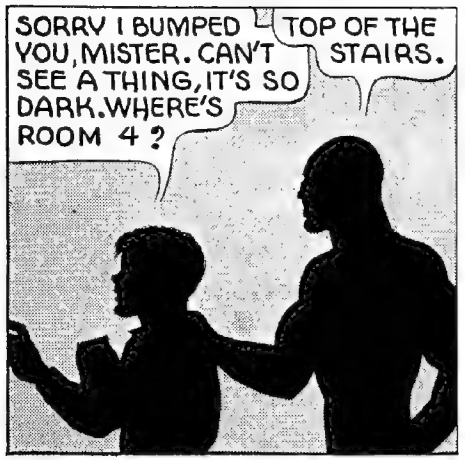
THIS IS THE STRANGEST THING I'VE EVER HEARD OF! SOMEBODY, NAMED WALKER, HAS BEEN KNOCKING OFF BENT BEAK'S MOB ALL OVER THE STATE!
IN THE WARDEN'S OFFICE~~
WHO'S WALKER?
NOBODY KNOWS! BUT HE'S TURNED IN THE WHOLE MOB~ALL EXCEPT BENT BEAK, HIMSELF!
NOBODY'LL TINK ALOOKIN' FOR ME HERE~A BLOCK FROM THE JAIL!
MEANWHILE, BENT BEAK, "HIMSELF"!
4
4-26
NOBODY~EXCEPT "MR. WALKER"!
FEELS GOOD GETTIN' OUTA THEM CON DUDS. I AIN'T ET FOR TWO DAYS. BETTER ORDER SOME GRUB.
ALL~NITE BEANERY? SEND ME OVER TREE HAM SAND~WITCHES 'N SOME JAVA. NUMBER 47, ROOM 4.
SAY, IT'S FOUR A.M! WE DON'T MAKE NO DELIVERIES THIS TIME 'A NIGHT.
4-27
I KNOW, PAL, BUT I'M LAID UP WID A BROKEN LEG. I'LL GIVE YA AN EXTRA BUCK. OKAY? YEAH, RIGHT AWAY.
TOMORROW~IN THE DARK.

THAT DEATH'S HEAD HAD ME GOOFY FER A WHILE~BUT I'M SAFE NOW~'N I'LL FEEL BETTER AFTER THAT GRUB COMES.

SORTA LATE FOR DELIVERIES, AIN'T IT?
GUY'S LAID UP WITH A BROKEN LEG. NUMBER 47, ROOM 4.

47


EXCUSE ME~
OH~GEE~IT'S DARK IN HERE~ CAN'T SEE A THING!
4-28


SORRY I BUMPED YOU, MISTER. CAN'T SEE A THING, IT'S SO DARK. WHERE'S ROOM 4?
TOP OF THE STAIRS.

HERE'S THE FOOD YOU ORDERED.
OKAY. KEEP THE CHANGE.

MAN~I'M HUNGRY. AIN'T ET FOR TWO DAYS!

4-29

DEATH'S HEAD! IT'S FOLLOWED ME~~!
THAT KID~WHO BROUGHT THE FOOD~~~!
4-30
HE'D BE~DOWNSTAIRS~IN THE STREET~BY NOW~!
TOMORROW~~CRASH!
FOR A WEEK THAT'S SEEM~ED LIKE AN ETERNITY, THE DEATH'S HEAD HAS TRAILED BENT BEAK~NOW, IT HAS REACHED HIS SECRET HIDE-OUT~~!
BENT BEAK'S IRON NERVES CRACK~~!
I'M BENT BEAK BRODER! COME GET ME!
5-1
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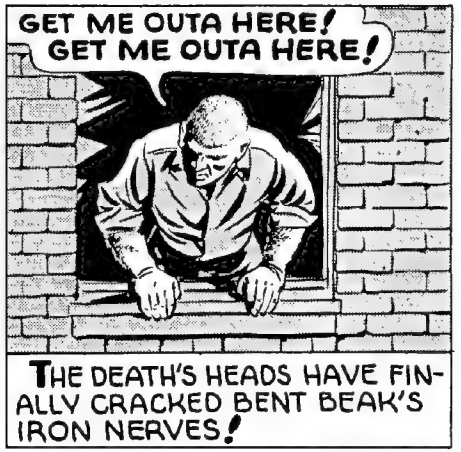
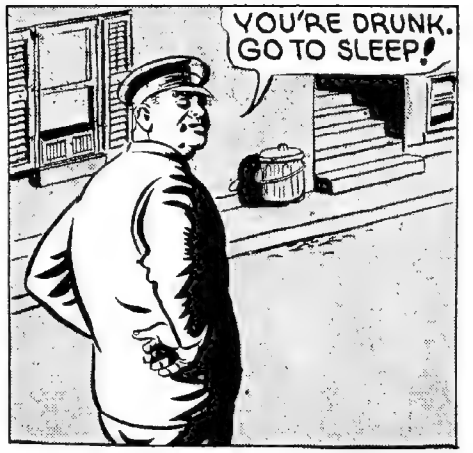
NEXT WEEK: THE PATIENT PATROLMAN.

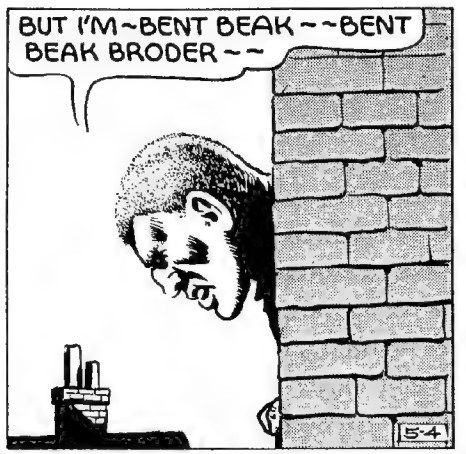

GET ME OUTA HERE! GET ME OUTA HERE!
THE DEATH'S HEADS HAVE FINALLY CRACKED BENT BEAK'S IRON NERVES!

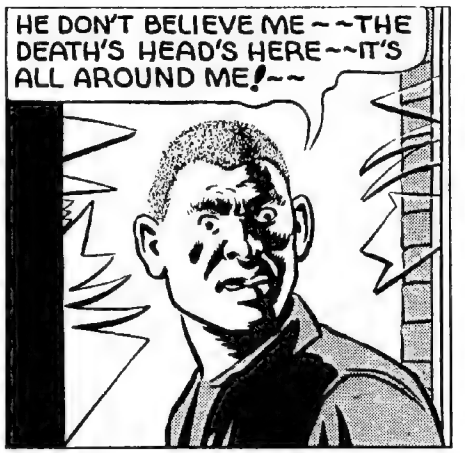
WHAT'S GOIN' ON UP THERE?
5-3

I'M BENT-BEAK BRODER! COME ~COME UPSTAIRS AND GET ME!


YOU'RE DRUNK. GO TO SLEEP!

AND STOP THAT INFERNAL YELLING, OR I'LL PULL YOU IN!


BUT I'M ~BENT BEAK ~~BENT BEAK BRODER ~~
5-4


HE DON'T BELIEVE ME ~~THE DEATH'S HEAD'S HERE~~IT'S ALL AROUND ME!~~

I WON'T LET THAT COP GET AWAY~~I'LL MAKE HIM BELIEVE ME~~!

WAIT, COPPER~~I'M BENT BEAK BRODER!
I TOLD YOU TO SLEEP IT OFF, YOU DRUNKEN LOON! I'VE A MIND TO PULL YOU IN FOR DISTURBIN' THE PEACE!
5-5
YES~TAKE ME IN! DON'T YOU RECOGNIZE ME? I'M BENT BEAK!
SO YOU SAID! THE WHOLE NATION'S LOOKIN' FOR HIM~~
~THE TOUGHEST COOT THIS SIDE OF HADES! SHOT THREE GUARDS MAKING HIS BREAK! HE AIN'T LIKELY TO BE CAUGHT ALIVE~ NOW BE OFF WITH YOU!
BUT I'M BENT BEAK! LOOK AT MY NOSE!
I'VE A MIND TO PULL YOU IN FOR A BRAIN EXAM! YOU'RE THAT DAFFY!
NOW OFF TO BED WITH YOU~~ AND SLEEP IT OFF~BEFORE I LOSE MY TEMPER!
I'M BENT BEAK~DON'T LEAVE ME ALONE~THE DEATH'S HEAD KNOWS WHERE I AM~TAKE ME WITH YOU!
5-6

COME ON, STUPID! IF IT'S A NIGHT IN JAIL, YOU WANT, YOU'LL GET IT!
YOU BEEN READING TOO MANY PAPERS~SAY~WHAT I'D GIVE TO REALLY NAB BENT BEAK!
I'D GET MY STRIPES FOR THAT! BUT~FAT CHANCE! ALL I CAN PICK UP ARE CRAZY COOTS LIKE YOU!
12TH DISTRICT
5-7
SERGEANT, THIS LOON CLAIMS HE'S ~~
BENT BEAK BRODER!
5-8
PUT YOUR GUN ON HIM! ~HELLO, WARDEN? PATROLMAN KELLY JUST WALKED IN WITH BENT BEAK BRODER!
NEXT WEEK: MYSTERIOUS MR. WALKER

WHEN'S THE WARDEN GOING TO LET US SEE BENT BEAK?
OUR EDITORS ARE YELLING FOR THE STORY!
WARDEN'S BUSY WITH BENT BEAK. WHY DON'T YOU BOYS TALK TO PATROLMAN KELLY? HE BROUGHT BENT BEAK IN.
WARI

WELL, BOYS, I SPOTS HIM, AND SNEAKS UP ON HIM. HE PUTS UP A TOUGH FIGHT~BUT I'M HANDY WITH MY MITTS!
KELLY, YOU'RE A HERO!
5-10
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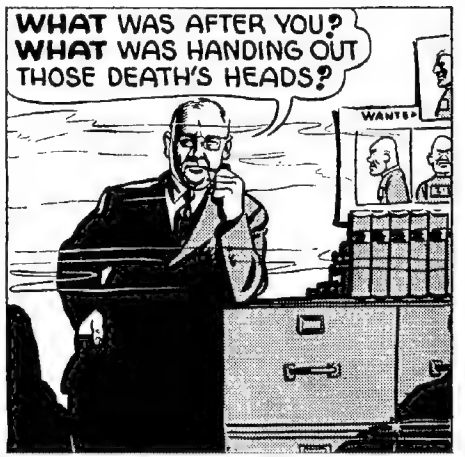
BENT BEAK, WHY DID YOU GIVE YOURSELF UP?
I COULDN'T STAND IT NO LONGER, WARDEN.

EVERY PLACE WE WENT--THAT DEATH'S HEAD! IT GOT ROOK, IT GOT JESS~IT GOT SNIFF AND JAG--IT WAS AFTER ME--!
5-11


WHAT WAS AFTER YOU? WHAT WAS HANDING OUT THOSE DEATH'S HEADS?
WANTED

THAT'S JUST IT! I NEVER SEEN IT!
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WE'VE GOT BENT BEAK BRODER~ AND HIS WHOLE MOB, BUT I'M TELLING YOU HONESTLY~WE DON'T KNOW HOW!
5-12
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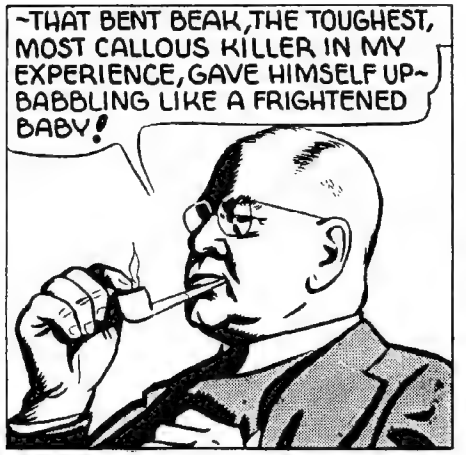
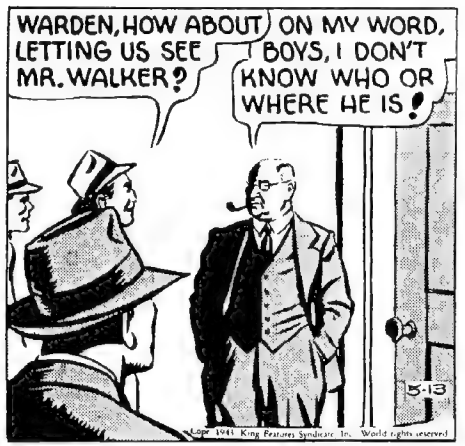
AN UNKNOWN MAN, NAMED WALKER, TRAILED THE MOB, AND PICKED THEM OFF, ONE BY ONE! HE CREATED SUCH TERROR~~


~THAT BENT BEAK, THE TOUGHEST, MOST CALLOUS KILLER IN MY EXPERIENCE, GAVE HIMSELF UP~ BABBLING LIKE A FRIGHTENED BABY!

~~STRANGEST OF ALL~~ NOT ONCE DID ANY OF THE FIVE ESCAPED CONVICTS SEE THIS MYSTERIOUS MR. WALKER.


WARDEN, HOW ABOUT LETTING US SEE MR. WALKER?
ON MY WORD, BOYS, I DON'T KNOW WHO OR WHERE HE IS!
5-13
Copr. 1943, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.

BUT THIS WOLF-YES, WOLF-IS EVIDENTLY THE PET OF THE MYSTERIOUS MR. WALKER! DON'T WORRY~~ HE'S QUITE FRIENDLY.

ACCORDING TO THE STORY I GET, THIS WOLF WORKED WITH MR. WALKER DURING THE ENTIRE CHASE! IS THAT A STORY, BOYS?

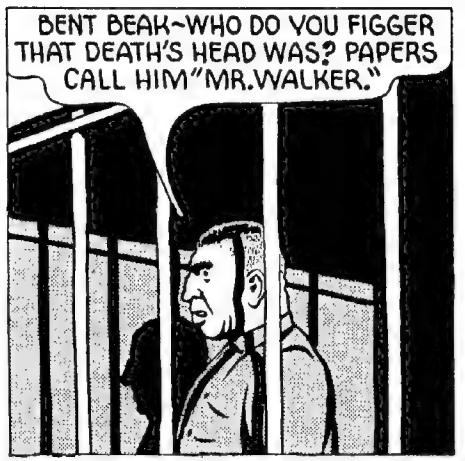
A WOLF-AND A MYSTERY MAN! WARDEN, DID YOU DREAM-UP THIS YARN?
I CAN HARDLY BE-LIEVE IT, MYSELF.
WHAT A STORY!
AND NOW, GENTLEMEN OF THE PRESS, IF YOU'LL FOLLOW ME, WE'LL HAVE A LOOK AT BENT BEAK AND HIS PALS!
ALONE; DEVIL SUDDENLY HEARS A FAMILIAR AND BELOVED WHISTLE!
5-14
5-15
A FAMILIAR WHISTLE-AND "DEVIL" IS OFF!
WARDEN SAID I'D BETTER KEEP AN EYE ON THAT WOLF.
GONE--!
CONTINUED.

BENT BEAK AND HIS MOB~ BACK IN THE HANDS OF THE LAW, AFTER A JAIL-BREAK THAT TERRORIZED THE NATION!
5-17

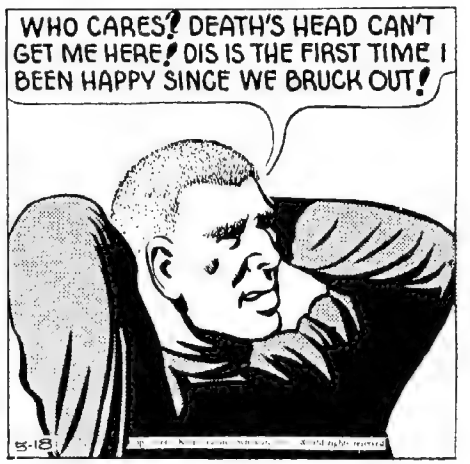
THERE THEY ARE, BOYS, THE TOUGHEST GANG OF THIS CENTURY!
ALL OF THEM EXCEPT BENT BEAK, HAVE MARKS ON THEIR JAWS LIKE SKULLS!

WE'VE TRIED EVERY SOAP KNOWN TO MANKIND~WE'VE RUBBED AND SCRUBBED THEM~THEY WON'T COME OFF! MEMENTOES FROM MR. WALKER!

WELL~HERE WE ARE ~BACK WHERE WE STARTED!
AN' NONE OF US EVER KNEW WHAT HIT US!


BENT BEAK~WHO DO YOU FIGGER THAT DEATH'S HEAD WAS? PAPERS CALL HIM "MR. WALKER."

PAPERS DON'T HAVE NO PICTURES OF "MR. WALKER!" AIN'T NO SUCH MISTER! WAS A~HOODOO!
SOME OF US ARE GONNA GET THE HOT SEAT, BENT BEAK!


WHO CARES! DEATH'S HEAD CAN'T GET ME HERE! DIS IS THE FIRST TIME I BEEN HAPPY SINCE WE BRUCK OUT!
5-18

WISH I KNEW. WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT WOLF, WARDEN.
THIS IS THE MOST CURIOUS CASE I'VE EVER KNOWN!
HOW ONE MAN, SINGLE-HANDED, COULD ROUND-UP BENT BEAK'S MOB ~WITHOUT EVER LETTING THEM SEE HIM!
5-19
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I'VE BEEN IN THIS GAME FORTY YEARS. I'M NOT A YOUNG MAN, AND I HAVEN'T MUCH LONGER TO GO~
BUT I'D GIVE TEN YEARS OF MY LIFE TO SHAKE THE HAND OF THE MYSTERIOUS MR. WALKER!
American Herald
BENT BEAK MOB CAPTURED
Mysterious Mr. Walker Rounds-up gang single-handed
TAME WOLF PET OF MR WALKER
Yanks Push Forward over wedge From Italy
EXTREE ~EXTREE! MYSTERY MAN PUTS BENT BEAK IN CLINK!
WHAT ARE THEY YELLING ABOUT, BYRON?
AN EXTRA. I'LL GO DOWN AND GET ONE, DIANA.
WELL~~I'LL BE A ~~~~!
MOB CAPTURED
5-20

American Herald
BENT BEAK MOB CAPTURED
Mysterious Mr. Walker
Rounds-up gang single-handed
TAME WOLF
PET OF MR. WALKER
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RECOGNIZE ANYTHING, DIANA?
WHY--IT'S "DEVIL"! WELL, OF ALL THE ~~~

AND~"THE MYSTERIOUS MR. WALKER!" COULD THAT BE ~~

"THE GHOST WHO WALKS" HE'S BEEN MISSING ONE WEEK. WE'VE WONDERED WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM. NOW--WE KNOW!
TOMORROW~ IN PERSON.

WHY DOESN'T HE COME? WHERE IS HE? OH~BYRON~LOOK~~"DEVIL"!

SORRY I WAS DELAYED~~I CAME AS FAST AS I COULD. DIANA~DARLING~~ HOW ARE YOU?

OH, DARLING~WE READ THAT~~WHAT HAPPENED?
NOT MUCH. I JUST KEPT AN EYE ON SOME FELLOWS.
CONT'D.

Chapter Two: The Phantom's Engagement

the PHANTOM®

I'M GLAD YOUR NURSE HAS ARRIVED, DIANA, BECAUSE I MUST RETURN TO SERVICE.

GOODBYE, DIANA. IF YOU EVER GET TIRED OF THAT BIG BRUISER, REMEMBER ME.
G~GOODBYE, BYRON.

GOOD LUCK, BYRON.
THANK YOU, SIR. I'LL NEVER FORGET OUR DAYS ON THE OOLAN LINE.
5-24
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HE'S A GOOD MAN.
YES~SOMETIMES, I WISH I WERE TWINS.

MAMA WILL BE HERE SOON.
YOUR MOTHER NEVER QUITE APPROVED OF ME, DIANA.

DIANA IS ON THE SUNPORCH, MRS. PALMER.
I'LL GO TO HER ROOM AND PUT THESE FLOWERS IN WATER.

IT'LL BE A RELIEF TO GET DIANA OUT OF THIS HOSPITAL. SHE NEEDS~~
5-25

HELP~~HELP~~

GO~~AWAY~~HELP ~~GO AWAY~~!
WHY, MAMA, WHAT'S THE MATTER? DON'T YOU REMEMBER "DEVIL"?
OH~WHAT A SHOCK! ~WHO IS THIS MAN?
DON'T YOU REMEMBER ME, MOTHER?
HMM~~IT'S YOU. I DIDN'T RECOGNIZE YOU IN CIVILIZED CLOTHES. I MIGHT HAVE KNOWN YOU'D COME. EVERY~THING WAS SO PEACEFUL!
I'M TAKING DIANA TO HER UNCLE DAVE'S PLACE IN THE COUNTRY. I SUPPOSE YOU'LL HAVE TO COME.
AFTER DRAGGING HER TO THAT OUT~LANDISH JUNGLE, WHERE SHE ALMOST LOST HER LIFE, I GUESS THE LEAST YOU COULD DO WAS COME AND SEE HER!
BUT, MAMA, UNCLE DAVE SENT ME TO BENGALI.
THAT'S TRUE, MOTHER.
I DON'T CARE. IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT! AND DON'T CALL ME "MOTHER"!

LET ME SIT IN FRONT ~~WITH YOU.
RIGHT.

I DON'T KNOW WHY THIS ANIMAL PERSISTS IN CLINGING TO ME.
HE LIKES YOU, MAMA.

HMM~~I SUPPOSE I'LL HAVE TO SIT IN BACK, ALONE.
NOT ALONE, MAMA.
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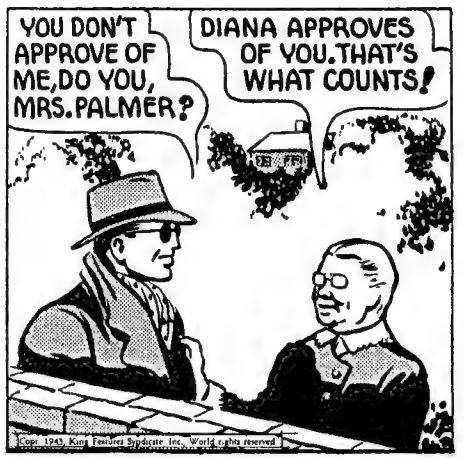
5-28

ARE YOU SURE HE'S BEEN FED~~?

NOW THAT YOU'RE HERE, WE CAN EXPECT PYGMIES AND CANNIBALS TO DROP IN AT ALL HOURS OF THE DAY. COME WITH ME, YOUNG MAN.
5-29


YOU DON'T APPROVE OF ME, DO YOU, MRS. PALMER?
DIANA APPROVES OF YOU. THAT'S WHAT COUNTS!
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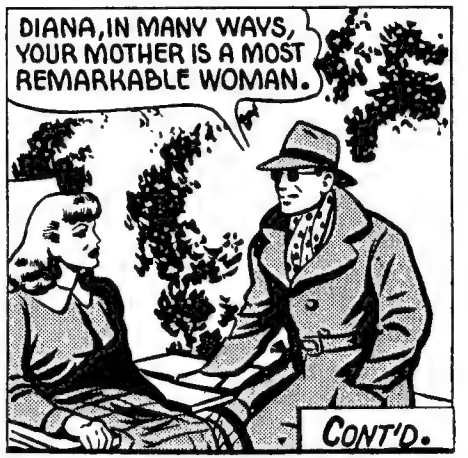
YOU'RE BETTER FOR HER THAN ALL THE MEDICINE IN THE WORLD. ~~SON~~GIVE ME A KISS~~~


DIANA, IN MANY WAYS, YOUR MOTHER IS A MOST REMARKABLE WOMAN.
CONT'D.

MRS. PALMER! MRS. PALMER!
5-31
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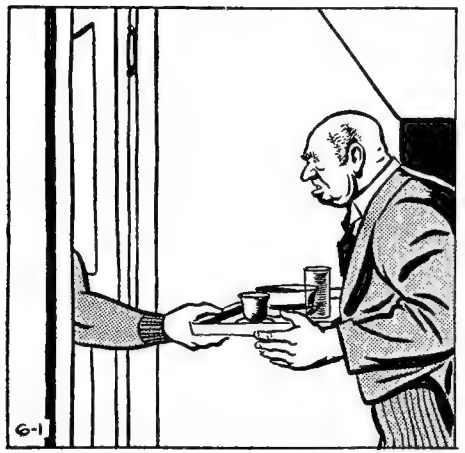
THERE'S A MAN--WITH A MASK AND A QUEER SUIT-AND--
AND A WOLF, FANNY. YES, I KNOW.

HE IS OUR HOUSE-GUEST. YOU'LL SEE A GOOD DEAL OF HIM, SO YOU MIGHT AS WELL GET USED TO HIM.

--I'LL TRY--BUT IT'LL BE --KIND OF HARD--
I CAN IMAGINE!
TOMORROW-- KITCHEN REVOLT.


6-1

THAT SETTLES IT! I WON'T WORK IN THIS HOUSE WITH THAT--SPOOK!
AND--THAT WOLF!
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--SO WE'RE ALL LEAVING!
BUT--YOU CAN'T! DIANA'S SICK--THE HOUSE IS SO BIG--

NOW SEE WHAT HE'S DONE! YOUR UNCLE DAVE WILL BE FURIOUS TO FIND HIS SERVANTS GONE!
LET ME TALK TO THEM, MAMA.
TOMORROW: FAME.

WE DON'T LIKE TO LEAVE, MISS DIANA --BUT THAT--MAN UPSTAIRS---
MEADOWS, DO YOU REMEMBER THE MASKED HERO OF THE OOLAN?
AND MYSTERIOUS MR. WALKER WHO CAPTURED BENT BEAK'S GANG? HE IS THE MAN UPSTAIRS! BUT YOU MUST KEEP IT SECRET!
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WHY--HE'S FAMOUS!
DIDN'T YOU KNOW? THEY'LL BE ASKING FOR HIS AUTOGRAPH, NEXT.
IS HE STILL SLEEPING?
HE'S USED TO SLEEPING IN THE DAYTIME, MAMA. HE RARELY SLEEPS AT NIGHT.
NOW, MAMA, STOP PRETENDING THAT YOU DON'T LIKE HIM.
I DO LIKE HIM-- BUT HE HAS SUCH QUEER HABITS---
--AND SUCH OUTLANDISH FRIENDS. I HALF-EXPECT A CANNIBAL OR SOMETHING TO POP UP ANY MINUTE!
6-3
PALMER
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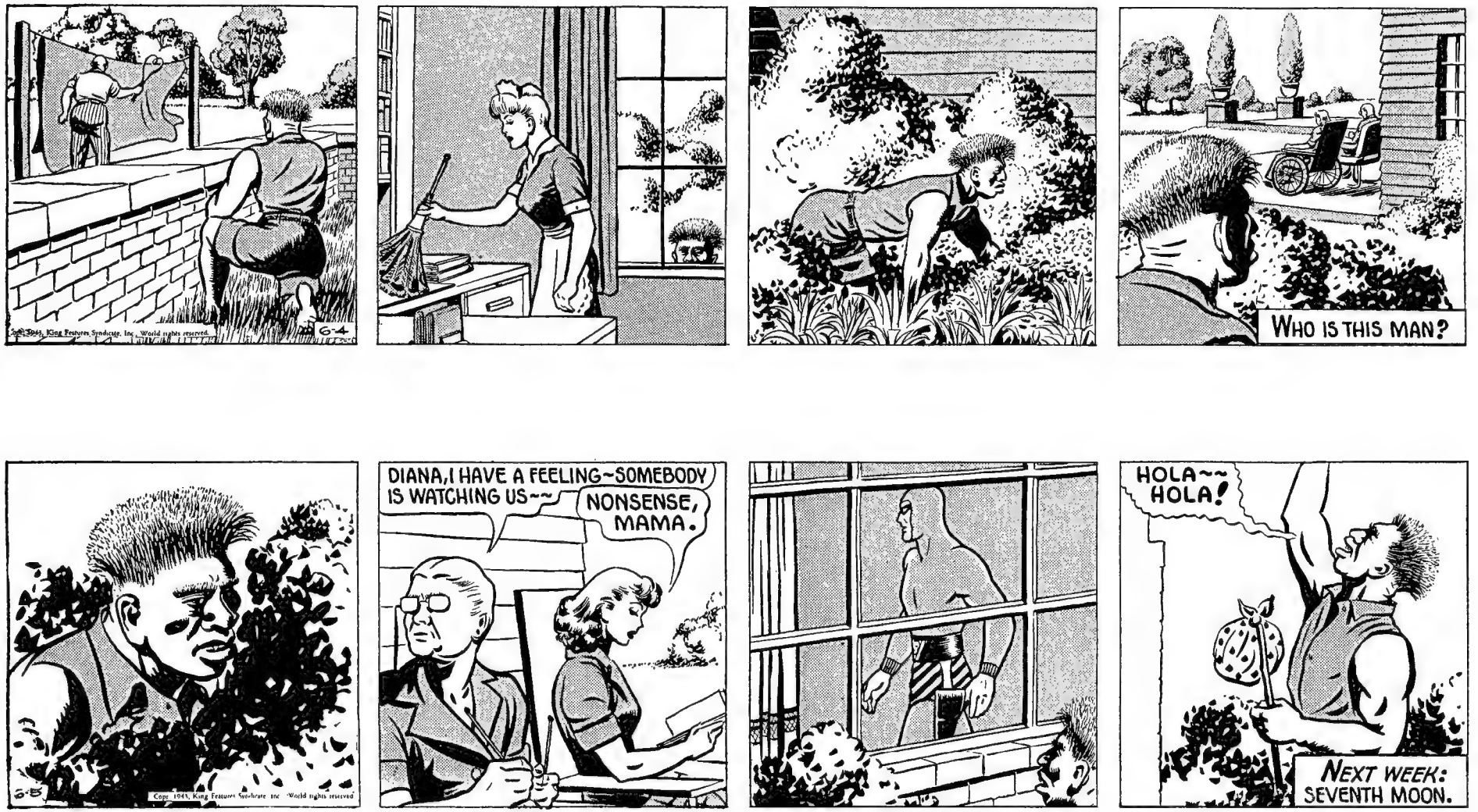
6-4
WHO IS THIS MAN?
6-5
DIANA, I HAVE A FEELING~SOMEBODY IS WATCHING US~~
NONSENSE, MAMA.
HOLA~~ HOLA!
NEXT WEEK: SEVENTH MOON.

GREETINGS, OH, GHOST WHO WALKS!
GREETINGS, KARNA, PRINCE OF THE ISMANI.

HE HAS COME FOUR-TEEN THOUSAND MILES TO SEE ME.
HMM--NOT A CANNIBAL BY ANY CHANCE--

WHY, YES, HE WAS, ONCE--HEY--
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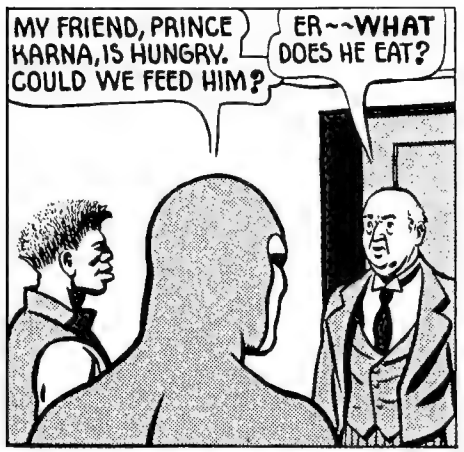
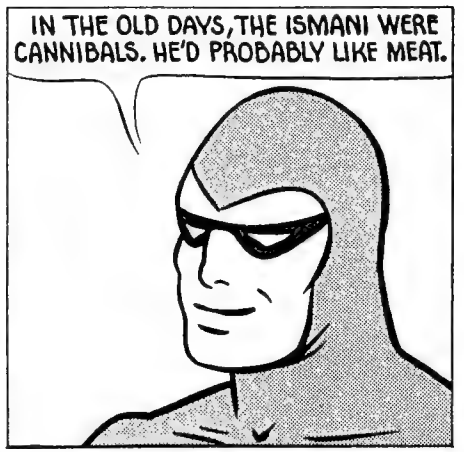
6-7


MY FRIEND, PRINCE KARNA, IS HUNGRY. COULD WE FEED HIM?
ER--WHAT DOES HE EAT?


IN THE OLD DAYS, THE ISMANI WERE CANNIBALS. HE'D PROBABLY LIKE MEAT.

NICE, FAT MAN.

I'LL SEND MY NOTICE BY MAIL. GOOD DAY!
6-8
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I CONVINCED MEADOWS THAT PRINCE KARNA WOULDN'T EAT HIM.
I HOPE YOU CONVINCED PRINCE KARNA.
MEADOWS, PLEASE SHOW PRINCE KARNA TO HIS ROOM, AND UNPACK HIS ~~ER~~THINGS.
YES, MUM.
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6-9
PRINCE KARNA, HOW DID YOU GET HERE FROM BENGALI?
GOT A JOB ON A SHIP.
THEN I TRAVELED UNDERNEATH A TRAIN.
THEN I WALKED. THAT IS ALL.
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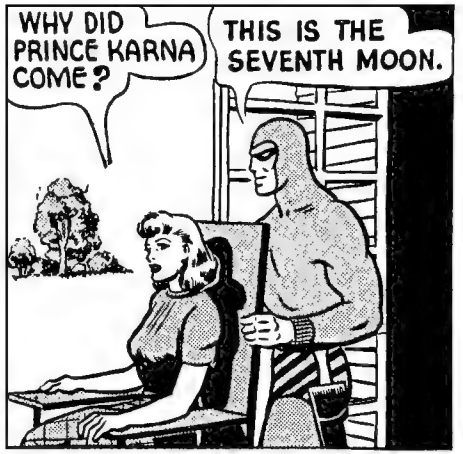
6-10
WHY AREN'T YOU EATING, MRS. PALMER?
I DON'T SEEM ~~ TO HAVE ANY ~~ APPETITE.


WHY DID PRINCE KARNA COME?
THIS IS THE SEVENTH MOON.

FOR CENTURIES, THE ISMANI HAVE PLEDGED THEIR LOYALTY TO THE PHANTOM EACH YEAR AT THE TIME OF THE SEVENTH MOON.
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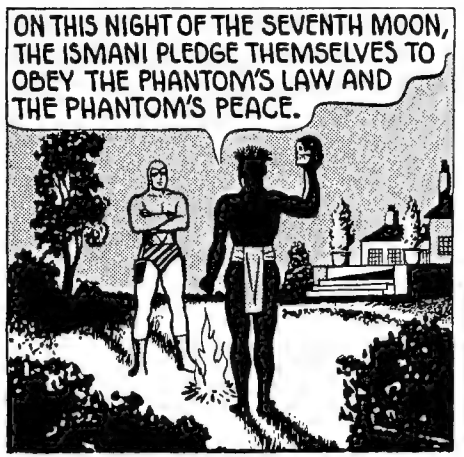
NO MATTER WHERE I AM, THEY ALWAYS MANAGE TO FIND ME. TONIGHT, THE MOON WILL BE FULL. HE WILL PRESENT A SKULL TO ME.
6-11

WHERE DO THEY GET THE SKULLS EVERY YEAR?
I'VE OFTEN WONDERED.
TOMORROW--BY FIRELIGHT.


ON THIS NIGHT OF THE SEVENTH MOON, THE ISMANI PLEDGE THEMSELVES TO OBEY THE PHANTOM'S LAW AND THE PHANTOM'S PEACE.

ACCEPT THIS TOKEN, OH, GHOST WHO WALKS.
THE PHANTOM WILL RECEIVE THE TOKEN OF THE ISMANI.
6-12

AND I, THE PHANTOM, RENEW MY PLEDGE TO FIGHT AGAINST PIRACY, GREED AND INJUSTICE IN ALL OF THEIR MANY SHAPES.

MAMA, ISN'T IT EXCITING!
MOST BARBARIC THING I EVER SAW! IMAGINE-IN THE MIDDLE OF FAIRFAX COUNTY!
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CONT'D.

FAREWELL, OH, GHOST WHO WALKS.
FAREWELL, PRINCE KARNA. CONVEY MY GREETINGS TO THE ISMANI.
6-14
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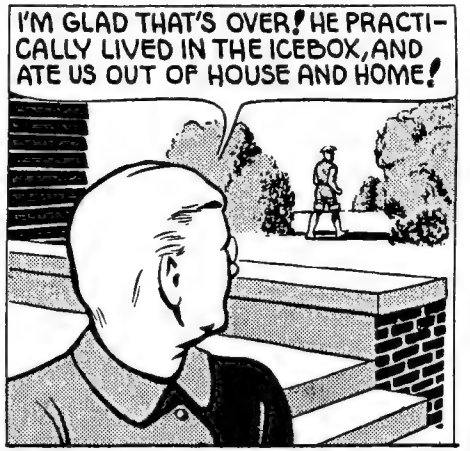
HE'S THANKING YOU FOR YOUR HOSPITALITY, MRS. PALMER, AND OFFERS YOU HIS LIFE.
GOODNESS~ I DON'T WANT IT!


I'M GLAD THAT'S OVER! HE PRACTICALLY LIVED IN THE ICEBOX, AND ATE US OUT OF HOUSE AND HOME!

MAMA MEANS THAT IF ANY MORE OF YOUR JUNGLE FRIENDS VISIT US, THEY SHOULD BRING THEIR RATION BOOKS!
TOMORROW~~ ~UNCLE DAVE.

HELLO, HELLO! HOW'S MY LITTLE NIECE?
UNCLE DAVE!
6-15

I KNEW YOU WERE HERE, AND I RUSHED BACK SO I WOULDN'T MISS THE WEDDING!

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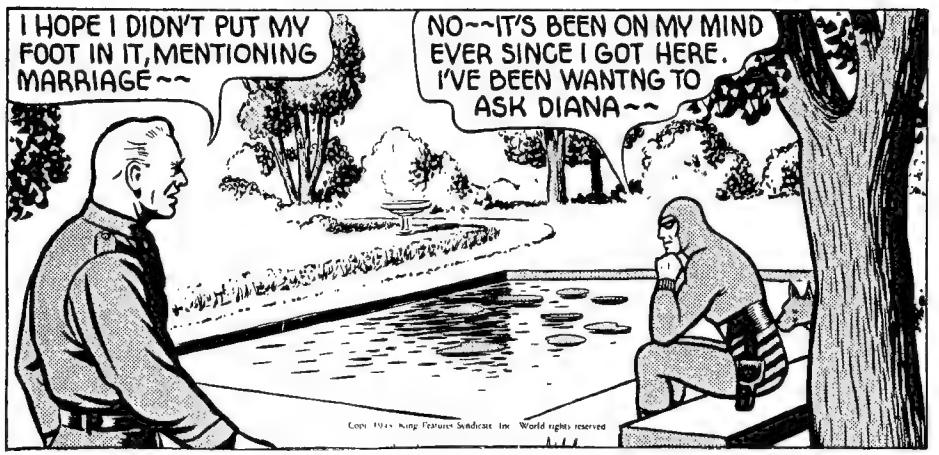
HMM~~ME AND MY BIG MOUTH.
TOMORROW~~ THE $64-QUESTION.


I HOPE I DIDN'T PUT MY FOOT IN IT, MENTIONING MARRIAGE~~
NO~~IT'S BEEN ON MY MIND EVER SINCE I GOT HERE. I'VE BEEN WANTNG TO ASK DIANA~~
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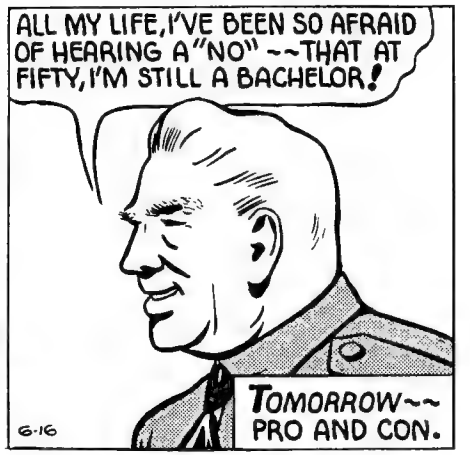
BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'D DO, IF SHE SAID~~NO.
IT'S A NASTY WORD.


ALL MY LIFE, I'VE BEEN SO AFRAID OF HEARING A "NO" ~~THAT AT FIFTY, I'M STILL A BACHELOR!
6-16
TOMORROW~~ PRO AND CON.

SHALL I ASK DIANA TO MARRY ME, "DEVIL"? HOW SHOULD I ASK HER? WHAT'LL I SAY~~?
6-17

I'VE FACED WILD MEN AND WILD BEASTS ~~BUT THIS IS THE TOUGHEST THING YET~~
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IT MEANS RESPONSIBILITY~~IT MEANS WE WON'T BE ABLE TO ROVE THE WAY WE USED TO, "DEVIL"~~

~~BUT IT ALSO MEANS~~DIANA.
TOMORROW~~ WOMAN IN THE CASE.

WHAT'S HE DOING, UNCLE DAVE?
GATHERING COURAGE, DIANA.
Copr. 1943, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.
I THINK YOU'RE GOING TO GET A PROPOSAL.
I'M AFRAID I'M NOT VERY GLAMOROUS~~ IN A WHEELCHAIR.
NONSENSE~~YOU'LL BE OUT OF THAT IN NO TIME! I SENT YOU INTO THAT JUNGLE~~WHERE YOU WERE WOUNDED. I BLAME MYSELF~~
NOW YOU'RE TALKING NONSENSE! I WENT, BECAUSE HE WAS THERE~~ BEING WITH HIM WAS WORTH A BULLET OR TWO!
6-18
Copr. 1943, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.
6-19
DAVE, WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND HERE?
MY DEAR SISTER, IF YOU'LL SNIFF THE BREEZES CAREFULLY~~~
~~~I THINK YOU'LL SMELL MARRIAGE IN THE AIR.
NEXT WEEK: THE LAST MILE.
~~~

DAVE, YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS--ABOUT THIS MARRIAGE!
WHY SHOULD I BE SERIOUS? IT'S NOT MY MARRIAGE.

BUT--DIANA CAN'T MARRY HIM!
NOT AT THE RATE HE'S GOING! HE'S AFRAID TO ASK HER!

IMAGINE, THE MASKED HERO OF THE OOLAN-- AFRAID OF MY LITTLE NIECE! BUT I'M WORKING ON IT.
NOW, DAVE-- YOU STAY OUT OF THIS!

YOU'RE NOT THE TYPE TO PLAY CUPID!
WHY NOT? I'VE GOT THE RIGHT KIND OF HAIR.
TOMORROW-- UNCLE CUPID.

DO YOU LOVE HIM, DIANA?
OH, YES, UNCLE DAVE!

IF HE ASKED YOU, WOULD YOU MARRY HIM?
I KNOW FIVE LANGUAGES, AND I'D SAY "YES" IN ALL OF THEM.

GO AHEAD, PAL! YOU'RE IN!

GO AHEAD! ASK HER TO MARRY YOU! IT'S ALL FIXED!
BUT~~ WHAT'LL I ~~SAY?
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JUST ASK HER.
BUT~~HOW?
G-R3

DON'T ASK ME. I'M A BACHELOR. YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN.

UH~~~
YES?

I~~EH~~
YES?

UH~~ENJOYING YOUR BOOK?
YES.
G-R4

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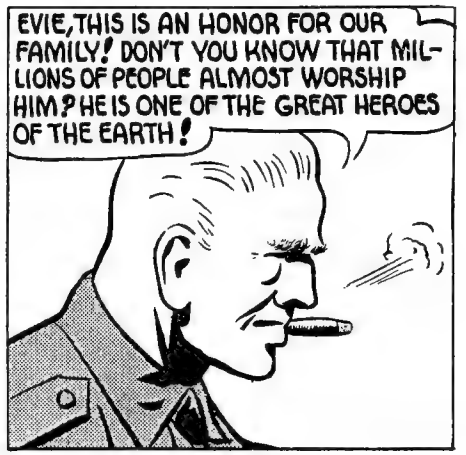
NICE DAY~~ ISN'T~~IT?
YES.
COOL~~AND WARM~~ AT THE SAME TIME.
YES.
ARE YOU~~UH~~ COMFORTABLE?
YES.
THE SUSPENSE IS TERRIFIC!
Copr 1943, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.
DIANA~~WILL YOU~~?
YES.
I MEAN~~ COULD YOU~~?
YES.
WILL YOU MARRY ME?
YES!
I COULDN'T HAVE STOOD IT MUCH LONGER~~~!
Copr 1944 King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.
CONT'D.

DIANA, THAT WAS THE HARDEST THING I EVER DID.
I KNOW, DARLING. I TRIED TO HELP YOU ALL I COULD. I KEPT SAYING "YES."
CONGRATULATIONS! CONGRATULATIONS!
THE PHANTOM HAS PROPOSED! DIANA HAS ACCEPTED!
Copr. 1943, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved

WHY, UNCLE DAVE, HOW DID YOU KNOW?

JUST BY CHANCE, I WAS HIDING IN THE BUSHES ~~~AND I COULDN'T HELP OVERHEARING...
TOMORROW ~~ STRANGE DESTINY
6-28

NOW, EVIE, THAT'S NO WAY TO TAKE IT.
I WAS AFRAID-OF THIS-SNIFF-IF SHE'D ONLY MARRIED-ONE OF THE BOYS ~~SHE GREW UP WITH ~~


EVIE, THIS IS AN HONOR FOR OUR FAMILY! DON'T YOU KNOW THAT MILLIONS OF PEOPLE ALMOST WORSHIP HIM? HE IS ONE OF THE GREAT HEROES OF THE EARTH!

I KNOW-SNIFF ~~BUT I DON'T WANT DIANA-LIVING IN JUNGLES-SURROUNDED BY PYGMIES AND CANNIBALS AND~~OH, DAVE~~

SHE'LL BE HAPPY. THAT'S WHAT COUNTS. HE HAS A STRANGE DESTINY, AND OUR LITTLE DIANA IS GOING TO SHARE IT WITH HIM.
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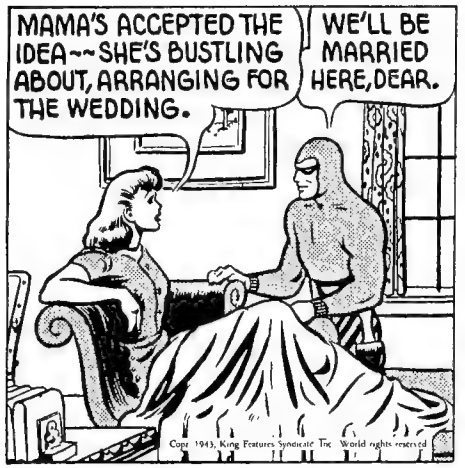
6-29

BUT HOW CAN HE ATTEND THE WEDDING IN THAT ~~OUTLANDISH COSTUME?
BEING THE GROOM, I'M AFRAID HE'LL HAVE TO ATTEND.
Copr. 1943, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved
WE'LL HAVE A QUIET, LITTLE, FAMILY WEDDING HERE, JUST FOR US.
HAPPY, DIANA?
DELIRIOUS, DARLING.
AND NOW~~ WE'LL TELL MAMA.
I WAS AFRAID OF THAT.
6-30
MAMA~~WE'RE GOING TO BE MARRIED.
YES, UNCLE DAVE TOLD ME~~
OH, MY DARLING, LITTLE GIRL~~
MAMA, I'M SO HAPPY!
Copr. 1943, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved
MAMA, I'M THE LUCKIEST MAN IN THE WORLD! MAY I KISS YOU?
DON'T SEE HOW I CAN~~ STOP YOU.
YOU KNOW, DAVE, HE IS RATHER~~SWEET~~
TOMORROW~~ "QUIET" WEDDING.


MAMA'S ACCEPTED THE IDEA~~SHE'S BUSTLING ABOUT, ARRANGING FOR THE WEDDING.
WE'LL BE MARRIED HERE, DEAR.
Copr. 1943, King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.

THEN~~WE'LL RETURN TO THE DEEP WOODS FOR ANOTHER WEDDING. FOR CENTURIES, THE PHANTOM HAS BEEN MARRIED ON THE SKULL THRONE!

ALL THE JUNGLE WILL BE THERE. THE CELEBRATION WILL LAST A MONTH. TEN THOUSAND CAMPFIRES WILL BURN NIGHT AND DAY~~WHILE TOM-TOMS BEAT~~

THERE WILL BE DANCING, AND FEASTING, AND THOUSANDS OF RARE GIFTS FOR THE BRIDE OF THE PHANTOM.
~~JUST A QUIET, LITTLE WEDDING.

WHEN'S THE WEDDING, MISS DIANA?
JUST AS SOON AS THE DOCTOR SAYS I CAN GET OUT OF THAT OLD WHEELCHAIR!

HE'S COMING TODAY, FANNY. I'M SURE HE'LL SAY I CAN TOSS THAT WHEEL-CHAIR ON THE SCRAP HEAP.

I KNOW HE WILL, MISS. OH, HERE HE COMES NOW!

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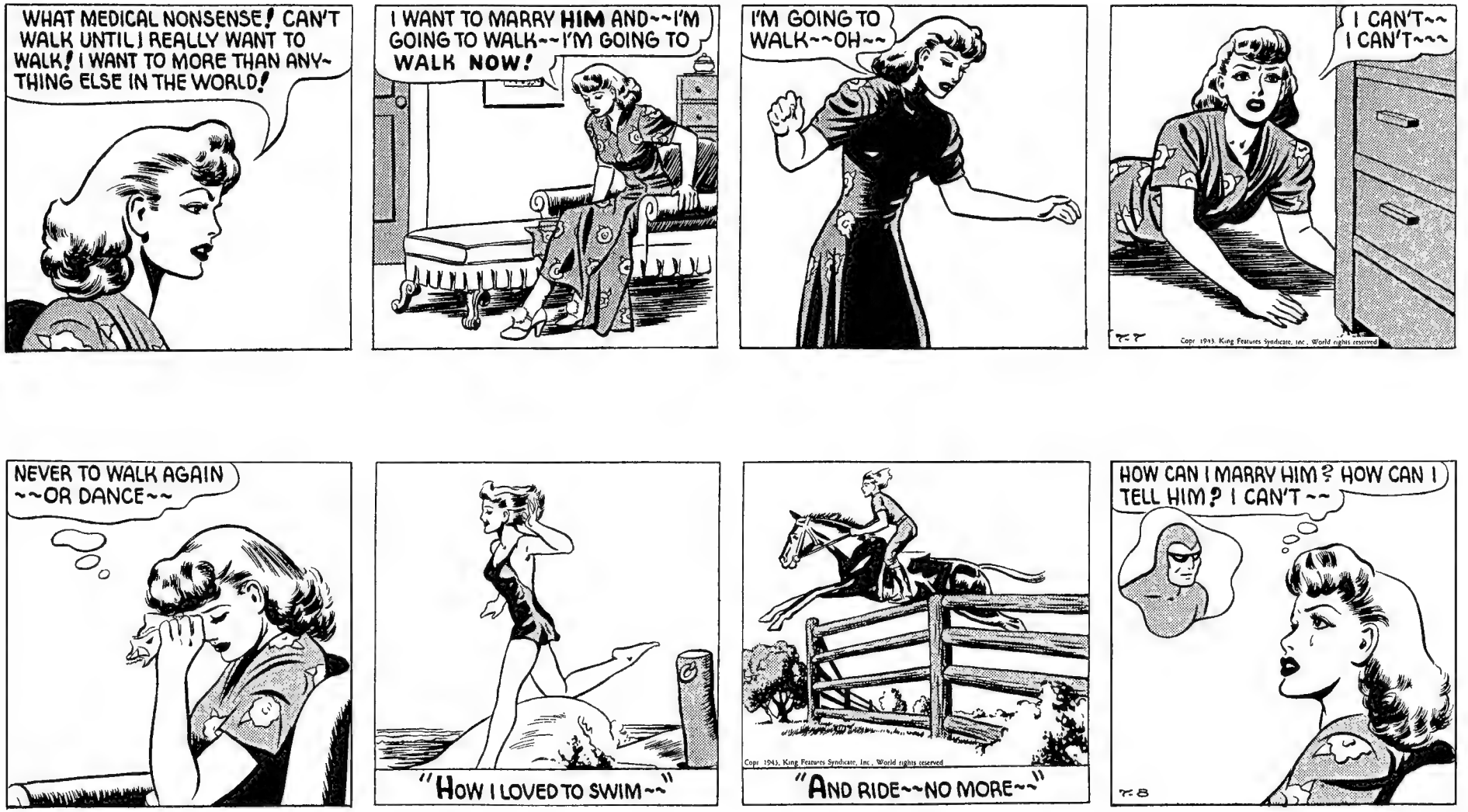
CONT'D.

HOW'S THE PATIENT TODAY?
HEALTHY ENOUGH TO FIGHT WILDCATS.
ARE YOU GOING TO WALK TODAY?
ABSOLUTELY! THAT WHEELCHAIR'S HEADED FOR THE JUNK HEAP!
LET'S TRY.
HERE WE GO~~
MY LEGS WON'T WORK
TOMORROW~~ VERDICT.
WELL~WHAT'S THE VERDICT, DOCTOR?
A CURIOUS CASE~BUT IT'S HAPPENED BEFORE. YOU SUFFERED SEVERE SHOCK AND SOME PHYSICAL INJURY IN THE JUNGLE WAR.
DEEP INSIDE YOURSELF, DIANA, YOU LACK THE CONFIDENCE TO WALK! YOU'LL NEVER WALK~~UNTIL YOU WANT TO~~ENOUGH!
BUT I DO WANT TO ~MORE THAN ANYTHING! I WANT TO BE MARRIED AND~~
YOU DON'T WANT TO ENOUGH! IT MAY REQUIRE SOME TREMENDOUS EMOTION~
NATURE HAS HEALED YOU. I'VE DONE ALL I CAN, BUT UNTIL YOU REALLY MUST WALK~~YOU'LL NEVER WALK.


WHAT MEDICAL NONSENSE! CAN'T WALK UNTIL I REALLY WANT TO WALK! I WANT TO MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE IN THE WORLD!
I WANT TO MARRY HIM AND~~I'M GOING TO WALK~~I'M GOING TO WALK NOW!
I'M GOING TO WALK~~OH~~
I CAN'T~~ I CAN'T~~~
Copr. 1943, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved
NEVER TO WALK AGAIN ~~OR DANCE~~
"HOW I LOVED TO SWIM~~"
Copr. 1943, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved
"AND RIDE~~NO MORE~~"
HOW CAN I MARRY HIM? HOW CAN I TELL HIM? I CAN'T ~~

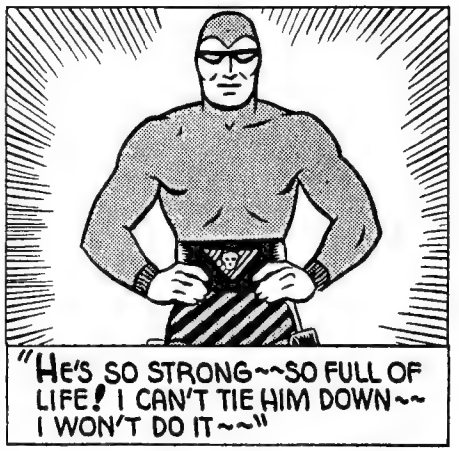
AH, THAT WAS A FINE SWIM!

WE'LL BE A MARRIED MAN SOON, "DEVIL". MARRIED TO THE LOVELIEST, GRANDEST GIRL IN THE WORLD!

LET'S GET BACK TO THE HOUSE! AN HOUR AWAY FROM HER IS LIKE A YEAR!
Copr. 1943 King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved

HE'S COMING BACK~~HOW AM I GOING TO TELL HIM THAT I CAN'T ~~ WON'T~~MARRY HIM?

IF I TELL HIM I CAN'T WALK~~HE'LL INSIST UPON MARRYING ME, ANYHOW ~~HE'S LIKE THAT~~HE WOULDN'T TAKE NO FOR AN ANSWER~~


"HE'S SO STRONG~~SO FULL OF LIFE! I CAN'T TIE HIM DOWN~~ I WON'T DO IT~~"

ER~~JUST A MINUTE~~SIR~~I'LL SEE~~IF MISS DIANA~~CAN SEE YOU~~NOW~~
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CAN HE COME IN NOW?
OH, LET ME THINK~ JUST A MINUTE~~ A FEW MINUTES~~
CONT'D.

IF I TELL HIM I CAN'T WALK~HE'LL INSIST ON MARRYING ME, ANYHOW~~

"DEVIL" AND I COULDN'T WAIT ANY LONGER TO SEE YOU.

NICE SWIM?
MARVELOUS! HOW DO YOU FEEL? WHAT DID THE DOCTOR SAY?
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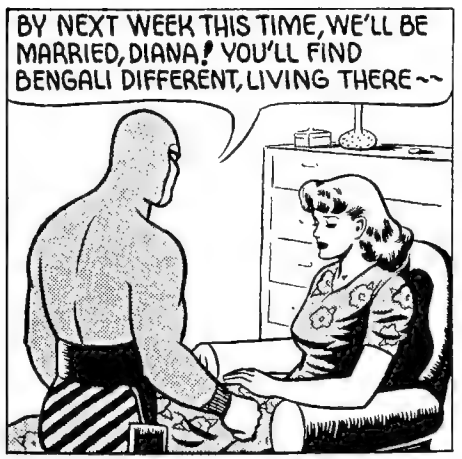
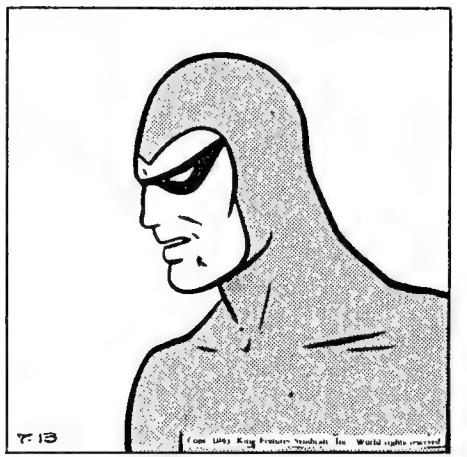
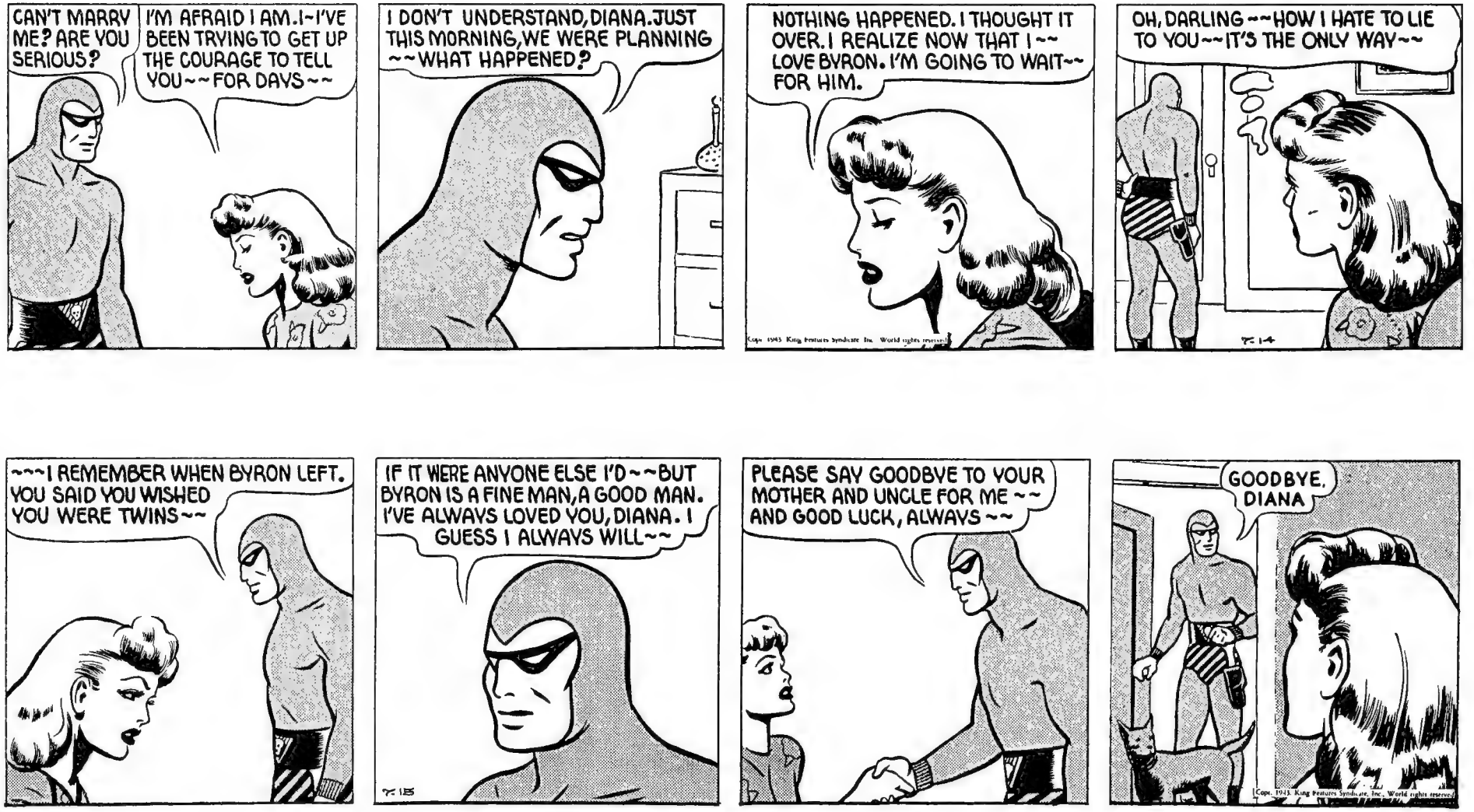
HE SAID~THERE WASN'T ANYTHING~~ TO WORRY ABOUT. HE SAID~~I'LL BE AS GOOD AS NEW~~IN A FEW~DAYS~~
TOMORROW~~ SMACK!


BY NEXT WEEK THIS TIME, WE'LL BE MARRIED, DIANA! YOU'LL FIND BENGALI DIFFERENT, LIVING THERE~~

WE'LL FISH AND HUNT~~I'LL SHOW YOU HOW TO CATCH DEER WITH YOUR BARE HANDS~~THERE'LL BE NATIVE DANCES AROUND CAMPFIRES~~AND~~

I MUST~~TELL YOU SOMETHING. I'M NOT~~GOING TO~~MARRY~~YOU.




CAN'T MARRY ME? ARE YOU SERIOUS?
I'M AFRAID I AM.I~I'VE BEEN TRYING TO GET UP THE COURAGE TO TELL YOU~~FOR DAYS~~
I DON'T UNDERSTAND,DIANA.JUST THIS MORNING,WE WERE PLANNING ~~WHAT HAPPENED?
NOTHING HAPPENED. I THOUGHT IT OVER. I REALIZE NOW THAT I~~ LOVE BYRON. I'M GOING TO WAIT~~ FOR HIM.
OH, DARLING~~HOW I HATE TO LIE TO YOU~~IT'S THE ONLY WAY~~
~~~I REMEMBER WHEN BYRON LEFT. YOU SAID YOU WISHED YOU WERE TWINS~~
IF IT WERE ANYONE ELSE I'D~~BUT BYRON IS A FINE MAN,A GOOD MAN. I'VE ALWAYS LOVED YOU, DIANA. I GUESS I ALWAYS WILL~~
PLEASE SAY GOODBYE TO YOUR MOTHER AND UNCLE FOR ME~~ AND GOOD LUCK, ALWAYS~~
GOODBYE, DIANA
~~~

HE SAID~~GOODBYE. HE'S GONE~~
Copr. 1943, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved
GONE!
DARLING~~WAIT, WAIT! I DON'T LOVE BYRON! IT'S YOU~~YOU!
I CAN WALK!
JUST LIKE THE DOCTOR SAID.
FANNY, WHERE IS HE?
MISS DIANA~~ YOU CAN WALK!
WHERE DID HE GO, FANNY? STOP HIM!
I DON'T KNOW~ HE WENT AWFULLY FAST~~
I DON'T KNOW~~WHERE HE WENT ~~HE'S GONE~~
Copr. 1943, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved
I CAN WALK~~! I'LL FIND HIM, SOMEDAY~~ I'LL EXPLAIN~~ HE'LL UNDERSTAND~~

OH--IT'S YOU--
SORRY TO DISTURB YOU, BYRON, BUT I WANTED TO SEE YOU BEFORE I LEFT--
Copr. 1943 King Features Syndicate Inc. World rights reserved
GLAD YOU CAME. WHEN ARE YOU AND DIANA BEING MARRIED?
DIANA LOVES YOU.
ME? ARE YOU JOKING? SHE'S ALWAYS LOVED YOU--
I MEAN--DIANA'S ALWAYS LOOKED ON ME AS A BROTHER. YOU'RE THE ONE SHE LOVES--
WOMEN CAN CHANGE THEIR MINDS, BYRON. EVIDENTLY, DIANA HAS, BUT I WANT HER TO BE HAPPY--ALWAYS!
NEVER DO ANYTHING TO BETRAY HER TRUST IN YOU, BYRON--OR YOU'LL HAVE TO SETTLE WITH ME! GOOD LUCK.
WAS THIS-- A DREAM?
Copr. 1943, King Features Syndicate Inc. World rights reserved
TOMORROW--DIANA.

DIANA!
HELLO, BYRON!
AREN'T YOU SURPRISED TO SEE ME WALKING AGAIN?
NO. I SAW HIM. HE TOLD ME ~~ EVERYTHING! DIANA~~
YOU SAW HIM! WHERE IS HE? WHY DIDN'T YOU BRING HIM WITH YOU? WAS HE UNHAPPY?
BYRON~~WHERE CAN WE FIND HIM?
HEY~~I THOUGHT YOU WANTED TO SEE ME!
~~SO, WHEN I THOUGHT I'D NEVER BE ABLE TO WALK AGAIN~~I LIED TO HIM~~I TOLD HIM I LOVED YOU.
I'M SORRY, BYRON~~ BUT I NEVER THOUGHT YOU'D KNOW WHAT I TOLD HIM. FORGIVE ME~~
OF COURSE, DIANA~~
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GOLLY, WHEN HE TOLD ME THAT YOU LOVED ME~~I ALMOST THOUGHT IT WAS A DREAM~~
WELL~~I GUESS IT WAS.

BYRON, YOU'VE GOT TO HELP ME FIND HIM~~
GLADLY~~ BUT HOW~~ AND WHERE?
Copr. 1943, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.
WE COULD CHECK SHIP SAILINGS~~ OH, THEY'RE NOT LISTED NOW, NATURALLY~~
THINK OF SOMETHING, BYRON!
I DON'T KNOW WHERE TO START, DIANA~~~HE MAY BE ANYWHERE~~ AND EVERYWHERE~~WILL-O'-THE-WISPS AREN'T IN THE PHONE BOOK~~
TR3
AND JUST OUTSIDE THE HOUSE~~ THE PHANTOM HAS RETURNED~~ FOR A LAST LOOK AT DIANA~~
SAY~THERE'S A TRANS~ OCEAN PLANE LEAVING IN AN HOUR! THERE'S A CHANCE HE'LL BE ON IT!
WE'LL GO TO THE FIELD AT ONCE!
GEE, BYRON, YOU'RE A PEACH TO HELP ME~~AFTER WHAT HAPPENED~~
AW~FORGET IT~~ YOU KNOW HOW I FEEL ABOUT YOU~~ AND HIM! YOU'RE BOTH TERRIFIC~~
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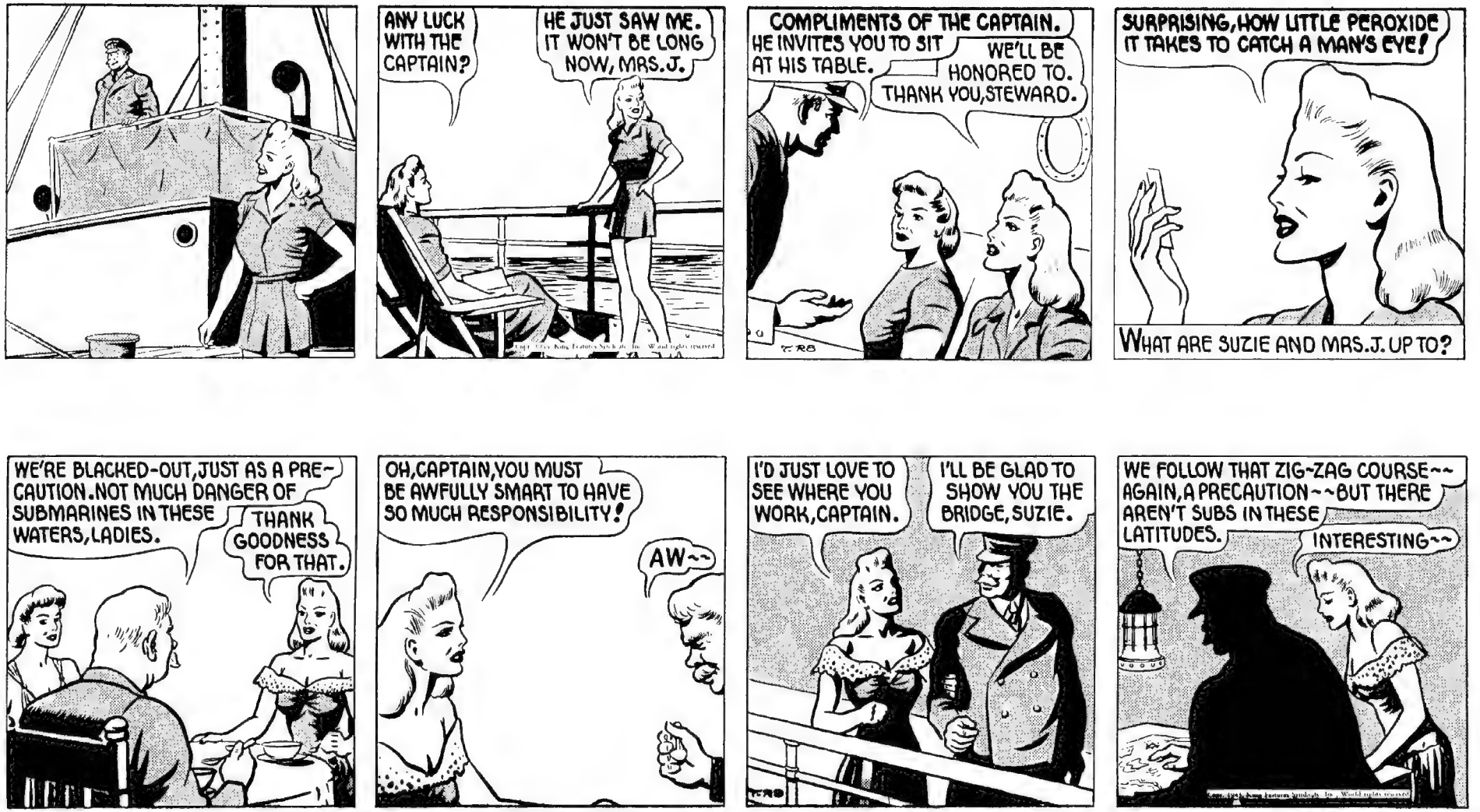
TR4
HE'S A GOOD MAN~~ SHE'LL BE HAPPY WITH HIM~~
GOODBYE, DIANA~~
NEXT WEEK: HIGH SEAS HIGHJACKER.

Chapter Three: High Seas Hijackers

the PHANTOM®

NIGHT, SHORTLY BEFORE A PACIFIC COASTAL CARGO SHIP SAILS~~
PASSENGERS, AS WELL AS CARGO, ARE CARRIED~~
MY, WHAT WIDE SHOULDERS!
KEEP YOUR MIND ON YOUR WORK, SUZIE. LET'S GO ABOARD
BLACKED~OUT, THE SHIP MOVES QUIETLY INTO THE NIGHT~~ADVENTURE AHEAD!
STEWARD, ISN'T THERE A MAN WITH A DOG ABOARD?
YES'M. MISTER WALKER, CABIN FOURTEEN.
NOW, SUZIE, NO NONSENSE! YOU'VE GOT WORK TO DO! FIRST, YOU'VE GOT TO MEET THE SHIP'S CAPTAIN~~
~~THEN, LEARN OUR COURSE, AND ~~
I KNOW, I KNOW, MRS. J. I'VE DONE IT ALL BEFORE!
MR. WALKER, EH? HE HAD SUCH WIDE SHOULDERS. I WONDER WHAT HE LOOKS LIKE?
14

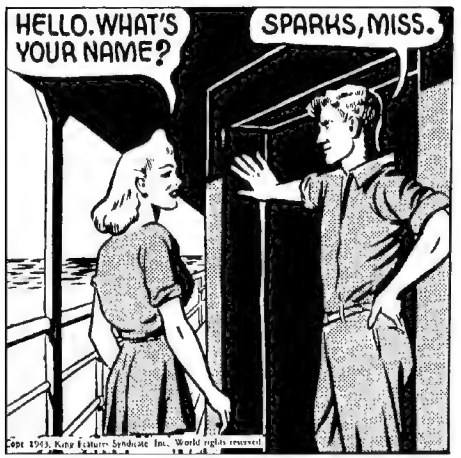

ANY LUCK WITH THE CAPTAIN?
HE JUST SAW ME. IT WON'T BE LONG NOW, MRS. J.
COMPLIMENTS OF THE CAPTAIN. HE INVITES YOU TO SIT AT HIS TABLE.
WE'LL BE HONORED TO. THANK YOU, STEWARD.
SURPRISING, HOW LITTLE PEROXIDE IT TAKES TO CATCH A MAN'S EYE!
WHAT ARE SUZIE AND MRS. J. UP TO?
WE'RE BLACKED-OUT, JUST AS A PRE-CAUTION. NOT MUCH DANGER OF SUBMARINES IN THESE WATERS, LADIES.
THANK GOODNESS FOR THAT.
OH, CAPTAIN, YOU MUST BE AWFULLY SMART TO HAVE SO MUCH RESPONSIBILITY!
AW~~
I'D JUST LOVE TO SEE WHERE YOU WORK, CAPTAIN.
I'LL BE GLAD TO SHOW YOU THE BRIDGE, SUZIE.
WE FOLLOW THAT ZIG-ZAG COURSE~~ AGAIN, A PRECAUTION~~BUT THERE AREN'T SUBS IN THESE LATITUDES.
INTERESTING~~

A GOODNIGHT KISS, SUZIE?
MAYBE--TOMORROW--CAPTAIN. GOOD NIGHT~

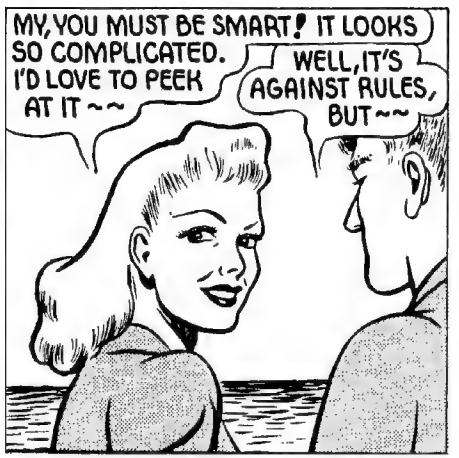
IT WAS A SNAP, MRS. J! THE OLD GOAT POINTED OUT THE EXACT COURSE!
MARVELOUS!

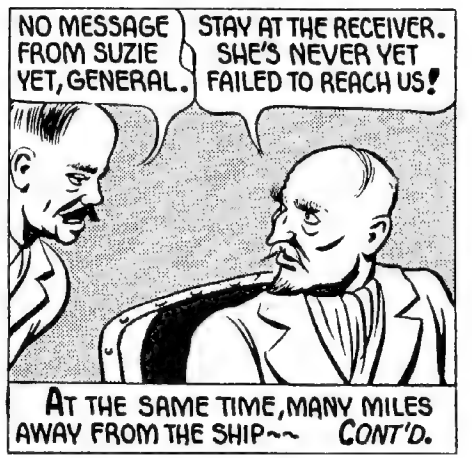
WE GO THAT WAY--
I THINK THAT WILL BE THE BEST POINT--RIGHT THERE--

NOW, I HAVE TO GET INTO THE RADIO-ROOM--AFTER THAT, WE CAN RELAX FOR A WHILE.
WHAT'S BEING PLANNED?


HELLO. WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
SPARKS, MISS.

I'M SUZIE. WHAT DO YOU DO ON THE SHIP?
I'M THE RADIO OPERATOR, MISS.


MY, YOU MUST BE SMART! IT LOOKS SO COMPLICATED. I'D LOVE TO PEEK AT IT--
WELL, IT'S AGAINST RULES, BUT--


NO MESSAGE FROM SUZIE YET, GENERAL.
STAY AT THE RECEIVER. SHE'S NEVER YET FAILED TO REACH US!
AT THE SAME TIME, MANY MILES AWAY FROM THE SHIP--
CONT'D.

I'D JUST LOVE TO SEE WHERE YOU WORK~~
WELL, MISS, NOBODY'S SUPPOSED TO COME IN~~
RADIO-ROOM KEEP OUT
ABOARD THE S.S. HARVEY.
MY, IT LOOKS SO COMPLICATED! YOU MUST BE AWFULLY SMART!
IT AIN'T SO HARD~~
WHAT'S THAT?
THAT'S THE KEY, MISS, FOR SENDING CODE.
I JUST HAVE TO TRY IT~~ DO YOU MIND?
HEY, MISS!
PLEASE, MISS, YOU BETTER GET OUT OF HERE!
I'VE SEEN THEM TAP DOT~DASH~DOT IN THE MOVIES~~ DID I SEND ANYTHING, SPARKS?
WELL, NO, MISS. JUST A LOT OF DOTS AND DASHES. YOU HAVE TO KNOW MORSE CODE~~
OH, DEAR, AND I TRIED SO HARD!
IT'S SUZIE'S MESSAGE, GENERAL!
GOOD! DECODE IT AT ONCE!
MEANWHILE, AT A RECEIVER MANY MILES AWAY~~
THAT'S THE PLACE! WE'LL MEET SUZIE AND THE S.S. HARVEY THERE!

SUZIE, I HOPE YOU WON'T MENTION THAT I LET YOU IN THE RADIO-ROOM. I'D GET INTO TROUBLE.
OF COURSE, I WON'T, SILLY BOY.

IT'LL BE OUR LITTLE SECRET, SPARKS. THIS IS FOR BEING~~ SO SWEET~~

IT WORKED! THE MESSAGE HAS BEEN SENT, MRS. J!
MARVELOUS WORK, SUZIE! THE GENERAL WILL BE PLEASED!
8-4
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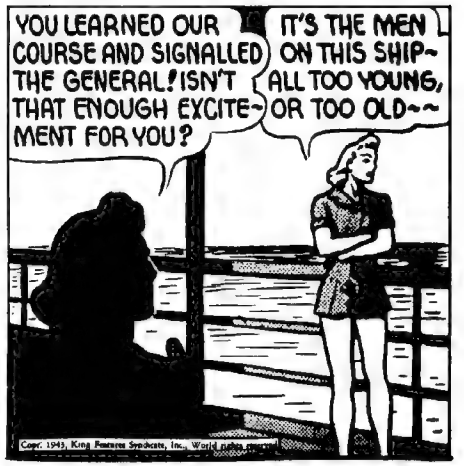
NOW~~ WE CAN RELAX FOR A FEW DAYS~~ AND WAIT FOR RESULTS!
WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN?

DECK TENNIS WITH THE CAPTAIN~~ SHUFFLEBOARD WITH SPARKS~~ OH, I'M SO BORED!
YOU SHOULDN'T BE.


YOU LEARNED OUR COURSE AND SIGNALLED THE GENERAL! ISN'T THAT ENOUGH EXCITEMENT FOR YOU?
IT'S THE MEN ON THIS SHIP~ ALL TOO YOUNG, OR TOO OLD~~
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OF COURSE, THERE'S STILL MR. WALKER~~
NOW, SUZIE, YOU SAW HIM ONLY ONCE FROM THE REAR~~ IT WAS NIGHT~~ ON THE DARK DOCK~~
8-5

HE HASN'T STIRRED FROM HIS CABIN~~ HE'S PROBABLY AN INVALID~~
WE'LL SEE~~
TOMORROW~~ CURIOUSER~

OH, STEWARD~~THIS MR. WALKER, THE MAN WITH THE DOG. WE HAVEN'T SEEN HIM ON DECK OR AT MEALS. IS HE ILL?

I DON'T KNOW, MISS. HE TAKES ALL HIS MEALS IN HIS CABIN~~AND COMES ON DECK ONLY LATE AT NIGHT~~I SERVE HIM HIS MEALS~BUT NEVER SEE HIM~~
8-6

LATE AT NIGHT~~I DON'T LIKE THAT.
I KNEW THERE WAS SOMETHING MYSTERIOUS ABOUT HIM~~LOOK~~ HIS CABIN~~
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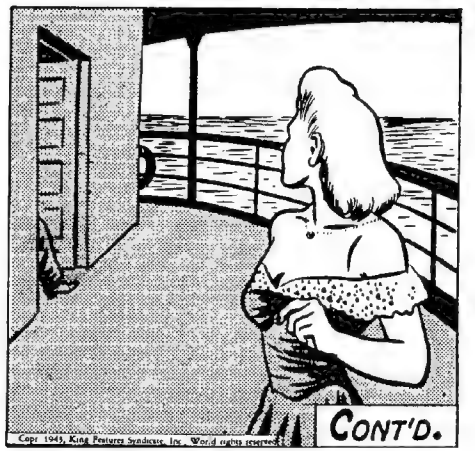
TOMORROW~~ AND CURIOUSER.

SUZIE, I WISH YOU'D FORGET THIS MR. WALKER. I HAVE A HUNCH HE MEANS TROUBLE!
NONSENSE, MAS. J. HE'S NEVER SEEN US.

HE KNOWS NOTHING ABOUT US~~ BUT I'M DYING OF CURIOSITY ABOUT HIM! I'VE GOT TO MEET HIM!
8-7

THAT'S HIS CABIN~~THE STEWARD SAID HE CAME OUT ONLY LATE AT NIGHT~~
14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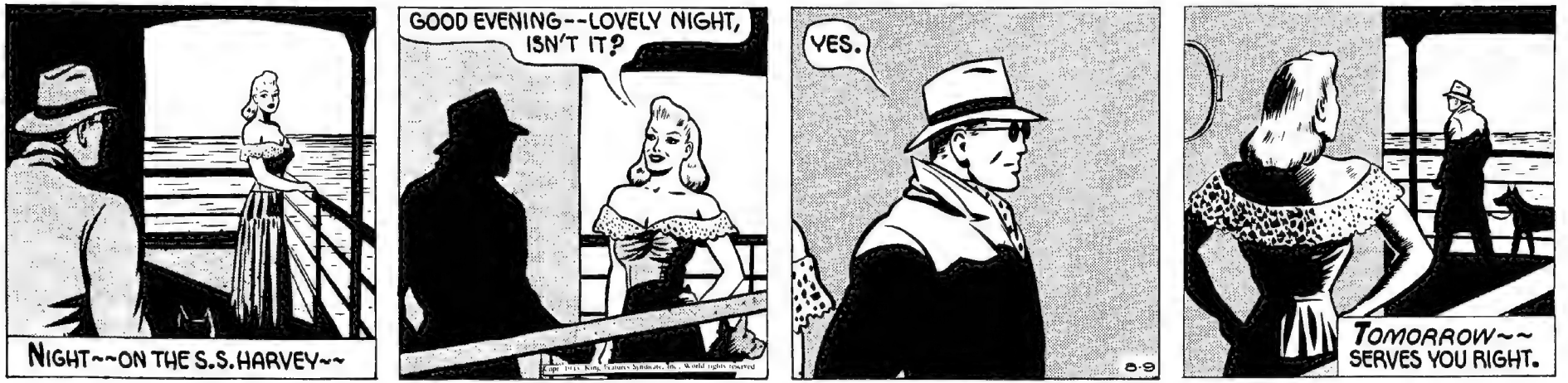
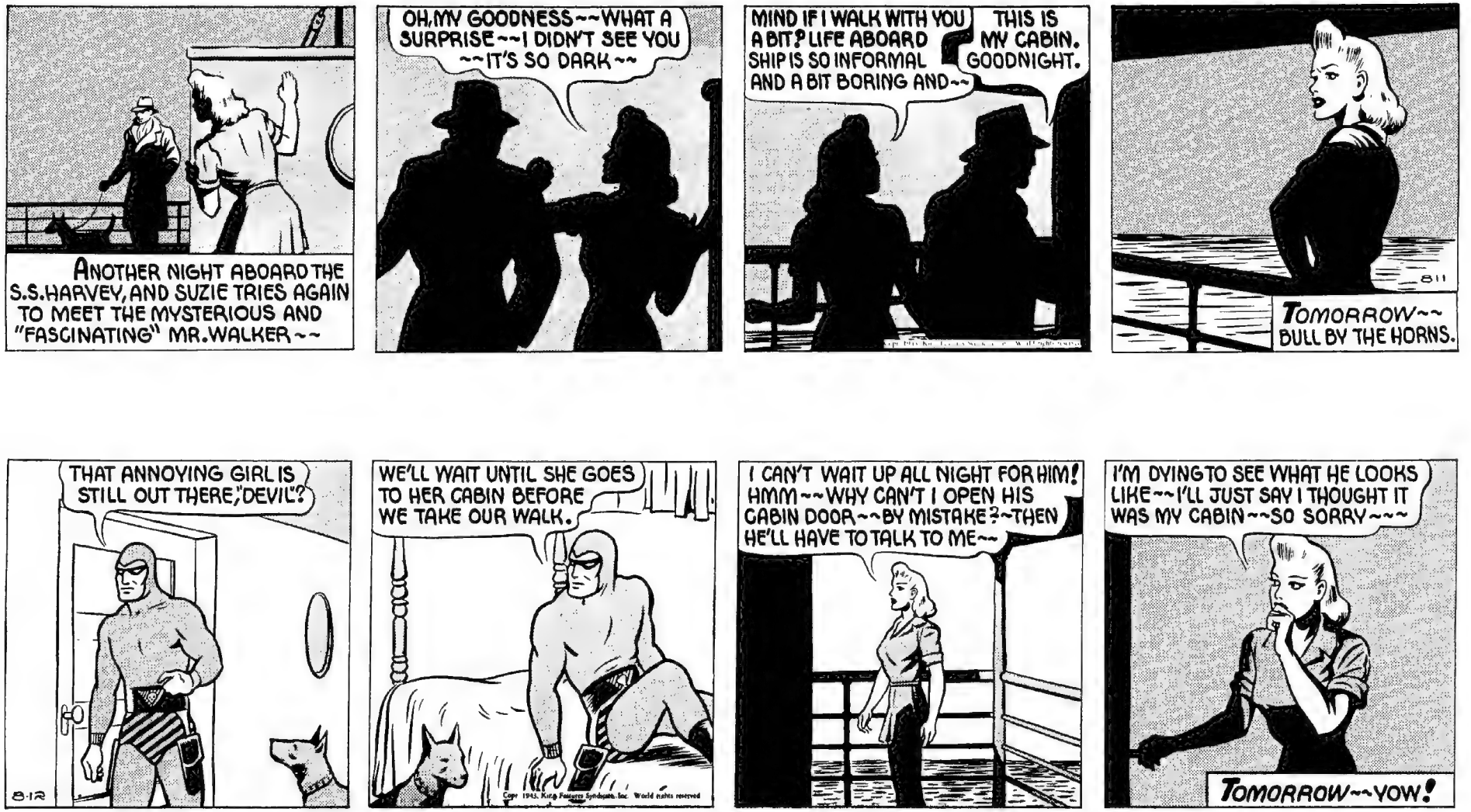
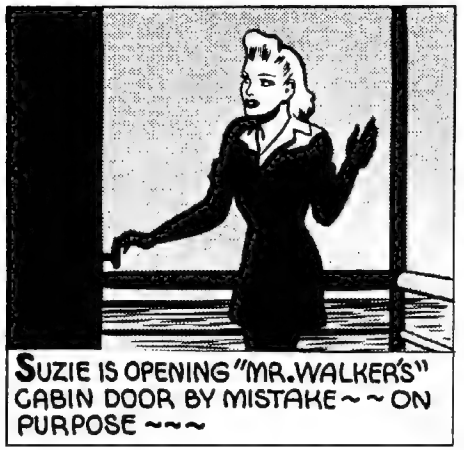
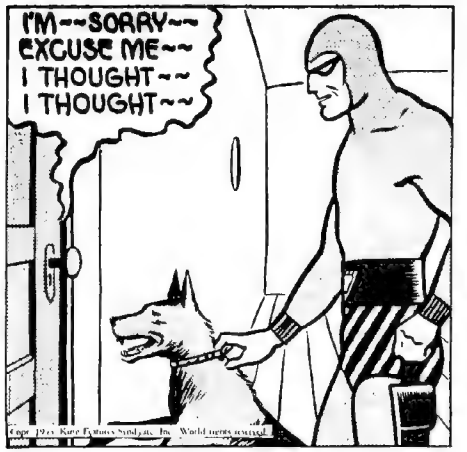

NIGHT--ON THE S.S. HARVEY--
GOOD EVENING--LOVELY NIGHT, ISN'T IT?
YES.
8-9
TOMORROW-- SERVES YOU RIGHT.

WELL, DID YOU MEET HIM?
HE WALKED BY WITHOUT EVEN LOOKING AT ME!
SERVES YOU RIGHT. YOU'RE SO USED TO MEN BREAKING THEIR NECKS TO MEET YOU. WELL--I'M GLAD THAT'S OVER--
WE'VE GOT TOO MUCH AT STAKE FOR YOU TO GET MIXED UP IN A SHIP ROMANCE!
IT'S NOT OVER--HE SAID ONLY ONE WORD --"YES"--BUT HIS VOICE WAS DEEP AND THRILLING---
I COULDN'T SEE HIS FACE--NO LIGHTS --BUT I SAW HIS DOG! IT'S NOT A DOG! IT'S A WOLF! ISN'T THAT FASCINATING?
8-10
TOMORROW-- COINCIDENCE.

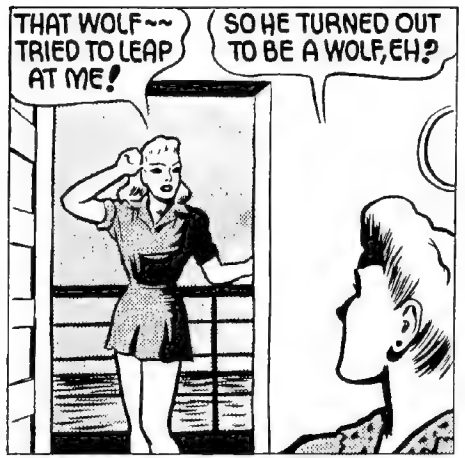

ANOTHER NIGHT ABOARD THE S.S.HARVEY, AND SUZIE TRIES AGAIN TO MEET THE MYSTERIOUS AND "FASCINATING" MR.WALKER~~
OH,MY GOODNESS~~WHAT A SURPRISE~~I DIDN'T SEE YOU ~~IT'S SO DARK~~
MIND IF I WALK WITH YOU A BIT? LIFE ABOARD SHIP IS SO INFORMAL AND A BIT BORING AND~~
THIS IS MY CABIN. GOODNIGHT.
811
TOMORROW~~ BULL BY THE HORNS.
THAT ANNOYING GIRL IS STILL OUT THERE,"DEVIL"?
8-12
WE'LL WAIT UNTIL SHE GOES TO HER CABIN BEFORE WE TAKE OUR WALK.
I CAN'T WAIT UP ALL NIGHT FOR HIM! HMM~~WHY CAN'T I OPEN HIS CABIN DOOR~~BY MISTAKE?~THEN HE'LL HAVE TO TALK TO ME~~
I'M DYING TO SEE WHAT HE LOOKS LIKE~~I'LL JUST SAY I THOUGHT IT WAS MY CABIN~~SO SORRY~~~
TOMORROW~~YOW!


SUZIE IS OPENING "MR. WALKER'S" CABIN DOOR BY MISTAKE ~ ~ ON PURPOSE ~~~

OH--
8-13
SHINING TEETH ~ ~ BLAZING EYES ~~ AND A DEEP, BLOOD-CURDLING GROWL ~~~

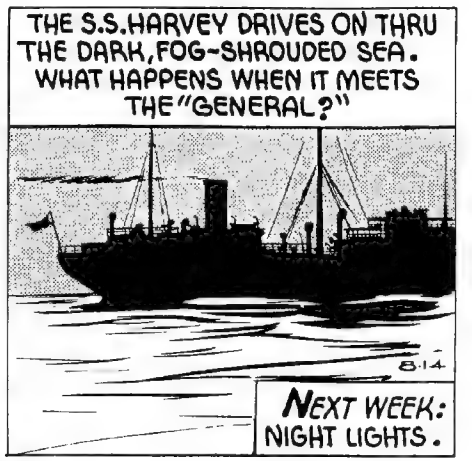

I'M ~~ SORRY ~~ EXCUSE ME ~~ I THOUGHT ~~ I THOUGHT ~~

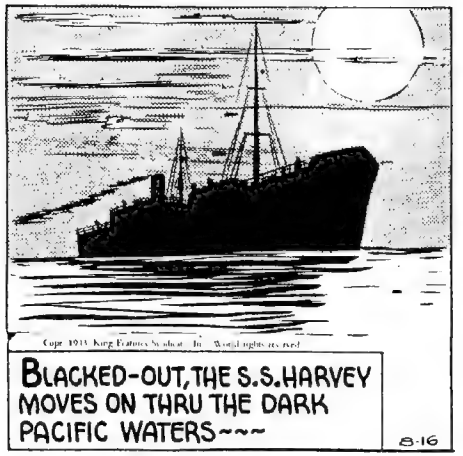
~~ IT WAS ~~ MY CABIN ~~~
TOMORROW ~~ BACK TO BUSINESS.


THAT WOLF ~~ TRIED TO LEAP AT ME!
SO HE TURNED OUT TO BE A WOLF, EH?

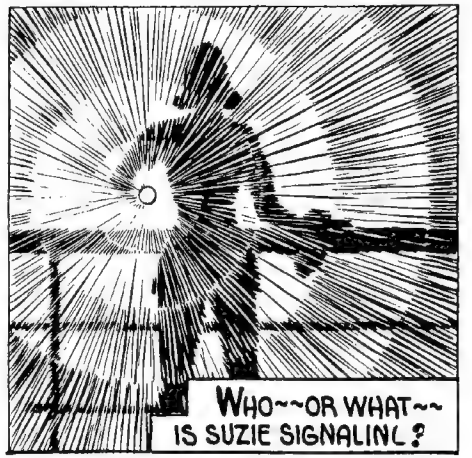
NOT HIM ~~ THE REAL WOLF! I DIDN'T EVEN SEE MR. WALKER.
ALRIGHT, SUZIE, YOUR ROMANTIC LITTLE ADVENTURE IS OVER ~~

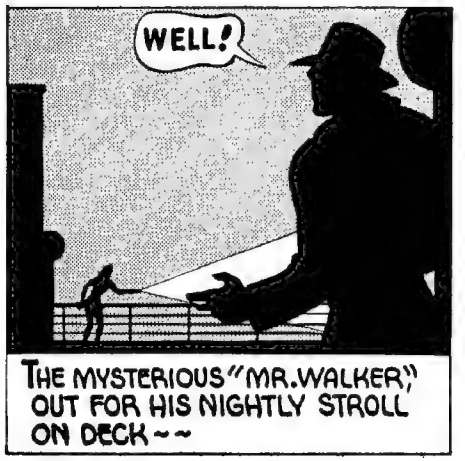
BECAUSE, TOMORROW NIGHT, THE S.S. HARVEY MEETS THE GENERAL!


THE S.S. HARVEY DRIVES ON THRU THE DARK, FOG-SHROUDED SEA. WHAT HAPPENS WHEN IT MEETS THE "GENERAL?"
8-14
NEXT WEEK: NIGHT LIGHTS.


BLACKED-OUT, THE S.S. HARVEY MOVES ON THRU THE DARK PACIFIC WATERS~~~
8-16

HERE'S THE FLASHLIGHT, SUZIE. IT'S TIME~~ NOW. CAREFUL~~
DON'T WORRY, MRS. J~~


WHO~~OR WHAT~~ IS SUZIE SIGNALING?


WELL!
THE MYSTERIOUS "MR. WALKER," OUT FOR HIS NIGHTLY STROLL ON DECK~~

8-17
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SEE ANYBODY YOU KNOW?

OH--MY GOODNESS--! I DIDN'T HEAR YOU!
ISN'T THAT A FLASHLIGHT YOU HAVE?

WHY--ER ~YES~~
DON'T YOU KNOW THIS SHIP IS BLACKED~OUT?
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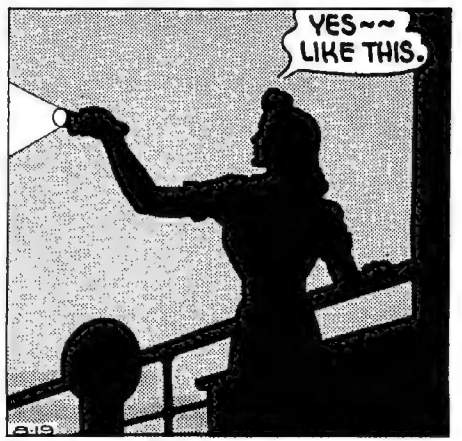
OH--REALLY? DID I~~ BREAK A RULE~~ OR SOMETHING?
6-18
TOMORROW--FLYING FISH STORY.

I WAS USING THIS LIGHT ~~TO SEE~~IF THERE WERE ANY FLYING FISH ~OUT THERE.
REALLY?


YES~~ LIKE THIS.
6-19

OW--!

WHO'S FLASHING THAT LIGHT DOWN THERE?
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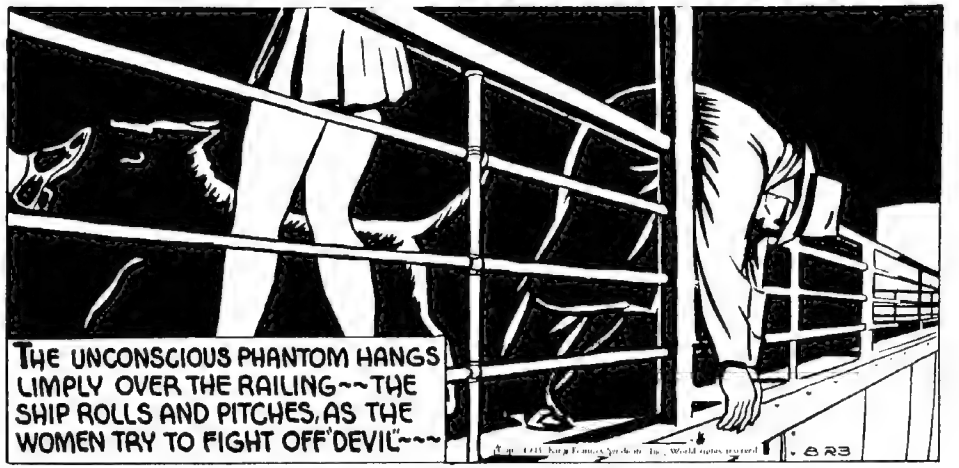
SOMEBODY'S FLASHING A LIGHT--ON OUR STARBOARD!
PLEASE--MR. WALKER--DON'T TELL THE CAPTAIN I DID IT! I DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS AGAINST THE RULES!
I THINK YOU'RE A LITTLE LIAR. YOU CAN EXPLAIN TO THE CAPTAIN THAT YOU JUST WANTED TO SEE FLYING FISH.
WHO WAS FLASHING THAT LIGHT?
IT WAS NEAR THE STERN, CAPTAIN.
OH--MR. WALKER --IF YOU'D ONLY BELIEVE ME--
YOU CAN EXPLAIN TO THE CAPTAIN--NOT TO ME--
MRS. J! YOU'RE A LIFE-SAVER! WHAT'LL WE DO WITH HIM?
WE'LL THROW HIM OVER THE RAILING! QUICK!
CONT'D.

QUICK--OVER THE SIDE WITH HIM BEFORE ANYONE COMES!
HE'S HEAVY---
ON THE BLACKED-OUT DECKS OF THE S.S. HARVEY--

SUDDENLY A LOW GROWL-- AS A LEAN FORM SPRINGS FROM THE SHADOWS--"DEVIL"---


THE UNCONSCIOUS PHANTOM HANGS LIMPLY OVER THE RAILING--THE SHIP ROLLS AND PITCHES, AS THE WOMEN TRY TO FIGHT OFF "DEVIL"---

HELP--HELP--
WHAT ON EARTH'S GOING ON HERE? GET THAT MAN OFF THE RAILING, BEFORE HE FALLS OVERBOARD!

EASY NOW, OLD MAN--WE'RE NOT GOING TO HURT YOUR MASTER.
"DEVIL" BECOMES DOCILE AT THE SOUND OF THE FRIENDLY VOICE.

CAPTAIN--WE SAW THAT MAN FLASHING A LIGHT--AGAINST THE RULES!
WHEN WE TRIED TO STOP HIM--THAT VICIOUS ANIMAL ATTACKED US!

YOU SAW HIM FLASHING A LIGHT?
YES, CAPTAIN.
HE'S OUT LIKE A LIGHT. WHO HIT HIM?
I DID! I'M~~ PRETTY HUSKY.
WHO IS HE?
NAME'S WALKER. CABIN 14. NEVER COMES OUT, EXCEPT AT NIGHT.
WE'LL FIND OUT WHOM HE WAS TRYING TO SIGNAL! LUCKY WE NABBED HIM IN TIME~~THANKS TO THOSE BRAVE LADIES!
YOU LADIES HAD BETTER BE HERE, TOO, WHILE WE QUESTION THIS MR. WALKER.
WE'LL BE IN~~ IN A MOMENT, CAPTAIN.
NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, SUZIE~~ WE'VE GOT TO KEEP THAT LIGHT ON!
I HAVE IT HERE, MRS. J.
WELL~~WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF HIM?
I'LL BE DARNED~~
MEANWHILE, IN THE LOUNGE ~~

MY GOODNESS!
SO THAT'S~~ MR.WALKER!
HE'S COMING TO!

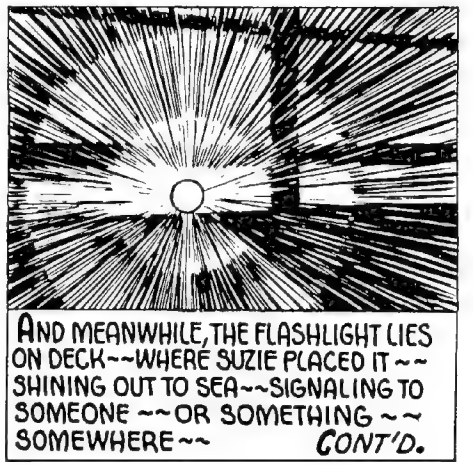
THAT WAS A~~ HARD BLOW. WHO DID IT?
YOU HAD IT COMING TO YOU! WHO ARE YOU?
BRT

AND WHOM WERE YOU TRYING TO SIGNAL WITH THAT FLASHLIGHT?
WHOM WAS I TRYING TO~~ ARE YOU JOKING?
TOMORROW~~THE IDEA!

CAPTAIN, THIS GIRL HAD THE FLASHLIGHT. SHE WAS USING IT.
WHY~~OF ALL THE~~

DO YOU EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE THAT THIS SWEET, INNOCENT GIRL WOULD DO SUCH A THING?
THE IDEA!

YOU~~A MASKED MAN~~ONLY ON DECK AT NIGHT~~WHOM WOULD YOU BELIEVE, IF YOU WERE IN MY PLACE?
BRB

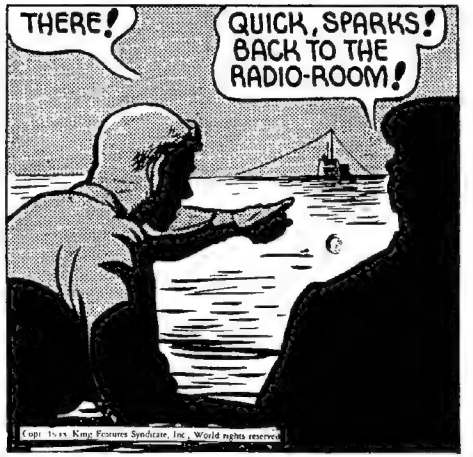

AND MEANWHILE, THE FLASHLIGHT LIES ON DECK~~WHERE SUZIE PLACED IT~~ SHINING OUT TO SEA~~SIGNALING TO SOMEONE ~~OR SOMETHING ~~ SOMEWHERE~~
CONT'D.

ONE MOMENT, CAPTAIN. I REALIZE THAT I LOOK GUILTY~~COMPARED TO THIS "INNOCENT" GIRL~~BUT DO YOU BELIEVE HER STORY?
8-30
DO YOU IMAGINE THIS WOMAN COULD KNOCK ME OUT~~UNLESS SHE CAME UP BEHIND ME~~AND USED THE BUTT END OF A PISTOL?
AND WHERE IS THE FLASHLIGHT? I'LL WAGER THESE WOMEN LEFT IT SHINING ON DECK~~SIGNALING SOMEONE!
NONSENSE. HOLD OUT YOUR WRISTS!
Copr. 1945, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.
THE FLASHLIGHT IS WHERE SUZIE LEFT IT~~ON DECK~~AND IT HAS BEEN SPOTTED!
NO MORE ARGUMENTS, "MISTER WALKER". HOLD OUT YOUR WRISTS OR WE'LL~~
SORRY, CAPTAIN!
Copr. 1945, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.
CATCH THAT MAN!
8-31
SUDDENLY, OUT OF THE DARKNESS, COMES THE ROAR OF A SHELL OVER THE SHIP'S BOW!

WHAT WAS THAT?
A SHOT, SIR~~ FROM A CANNON!

MY GOSH!

CAPTAIN~~THERE'S AN ENEMY SUB OUT THERE! THEY JUST RADIOED~~ TO TAKE TO THE LIFEBOATS! THEY'RE GONNA TORPEDO US!


THERE!
QUICK, SPARKS! BACK TO THE RADIO-ROOM!

HELLO~~HELLO~~ THIS IS THE CAPTAIN!

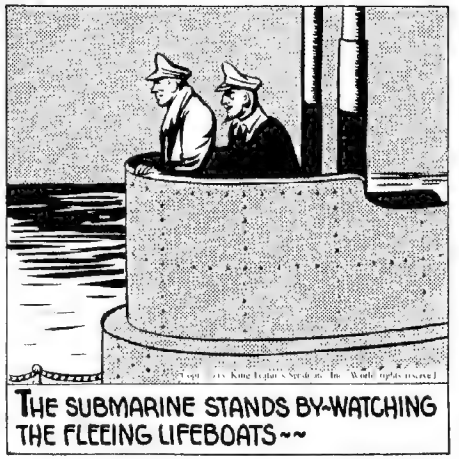
I WILL REPEAT ONLY ONCE! YOU HAVE FIVE MINUTES TO ABANDON SHIP BEFORE WE TORPEDO!

"ABANDON SHIP!"

WHAT GOES ON HERE? ENEMY SUBS TORPEDO FIRST AND WARN AFTERWARDS!

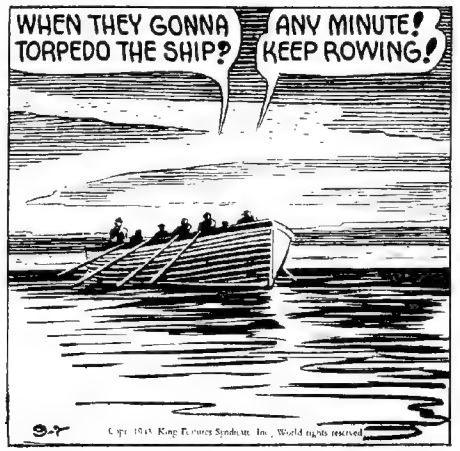
HURRIEDLY, THE CREW OF THE S.S. HARVEY ABANDONS SHIP! FIVE MINUTES~~AND THEN THE~~TORPEDO!
FIND THE TWO WOMEN! SEE THAT THEY GET INTO A BOAT!
Copr. 1943 King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved
CAN'T FIND THEM, CAPTAIN. THEY MUST HAVE LOWERED IN A BOAT ON THE OTHER SIDE.
OKAY~~ CLIMB IN!
HAVE THEY ALL GONE YET?
JUST ABOUT~
9-3
WHY ARE THE WOMEN HIDING ABOARD THE DOOMED SHIP?
THE CREW OF THE S.S. HARVEY ABANDONS SHIP!
9-4
ANY BOAT WITHIN RANGE WILL BE MACHINE~GUNNED IN TWENTY MINUTES!
MACHINE-GUNNED IN TWENTY MINUTES
Copr. 1943, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved
WHY HAVEN'T THE WOMEN LEFT THE SHIP, WHICH IS DUE TO BE TORPEDOED ANY MINUTE, WONDERS THE PHANTOM ~~AS HE, TOO, WAITS~~
CONT'D.

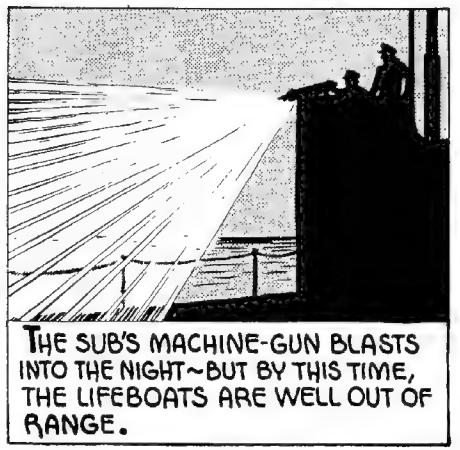
THEY SAID~~THEY'D START~~MACHINE~GUNNING US IN TWENTY MINUTES!
STOP TALKING~~ KEEP ROWING!

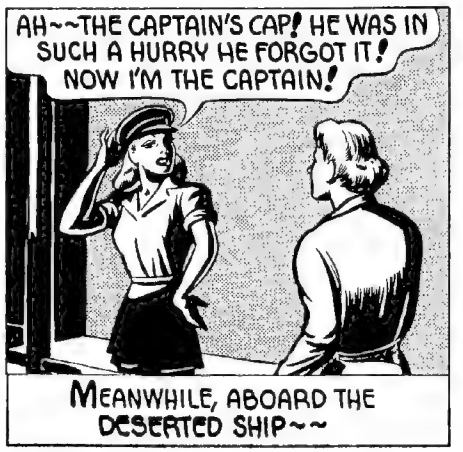

THE SUBMARINE STANDS BY-WATCHING THE FLEEING LIFEBOATS~~

THEY'LL BE GONE IN A FEW MINUTES.
WELL~~WE HAVE THE SHIP TO OUR~SELVES. LET'S TRY THE BAR.
MEANWHILE, ABOARD THE ABANDONED SHIP~~SUZIE AND MRS. J HAVE REMAINED.

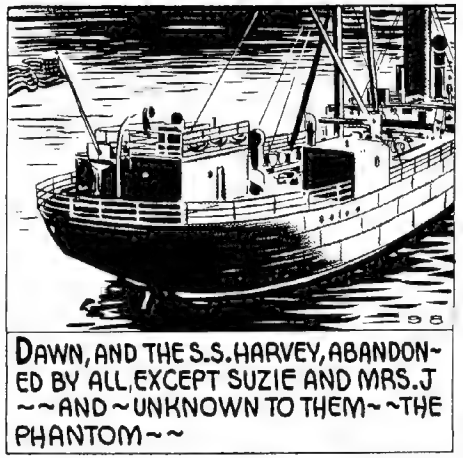
PUZZLED, THE PHANTOM WATCHES. WHY HAVE THESE TWO WOMEN REMAINED ABOARD A SHIP ABOUT TO BE TORPEDOED?


WHEN THEY GONNA TORPEDO THE SHIP?
ANY MINUTE! KEEP ROWING!

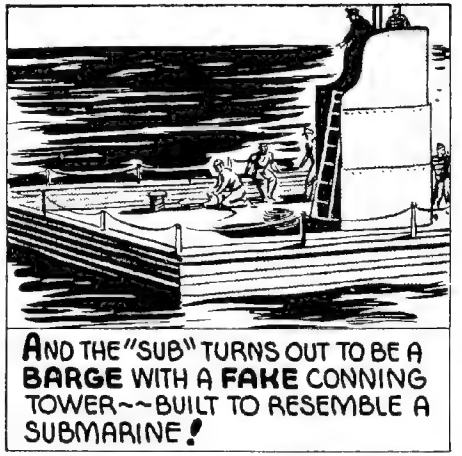

THE SUB'S MACHINE-GUN BLASTS INTO THE NIGHT~BUT BY THIS TIME, THE LIFEBOATS ARE WELL OUT OF RANGE.


AH~~THE CAPTAIN'S CAP! HE WAS IN SUCH A HURRY HE FORGOT IT! NOW I'M THE CAPTAIN!
MEANWHILE, ABOARD THE DESERTED SHIP~~

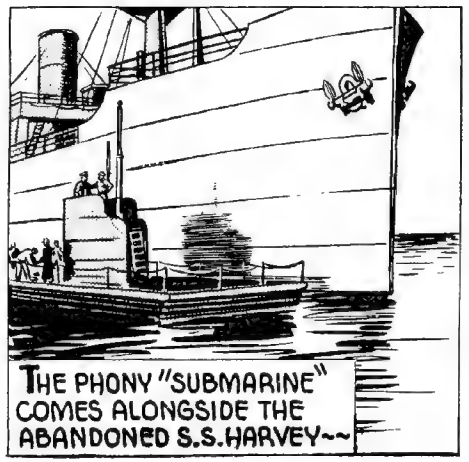
I DON'T GET THIS AT ALL, "DEVIL". THAT TORPEDO IS OVERDUE!
THE PHANTOM'S BEWILDERMENT GROWS~~

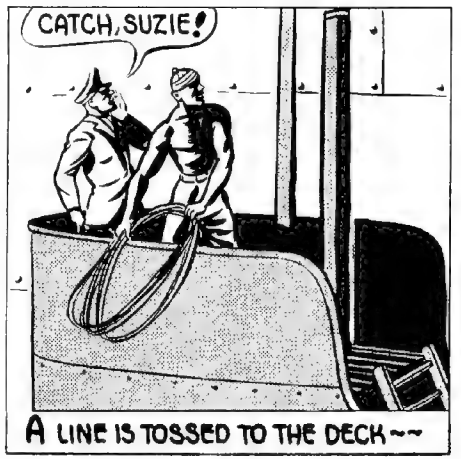

DAWN, AND THE S.S. HARVEY, ABANDONED BY ALL, EXCEPT SUZIE AND MRS. J ~~AND~UNKNOWN TO THEM~~THE PHANTOM~~

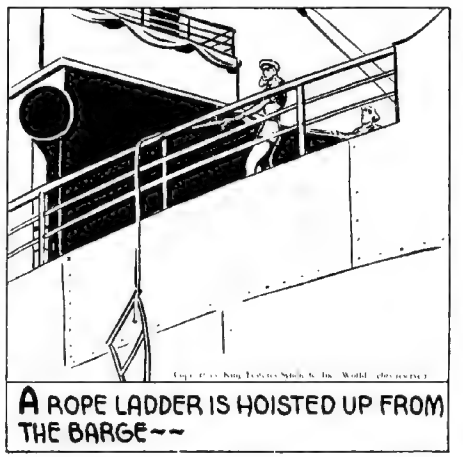
COME ON, GENERAL! WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?


AND THE "SUB" TURNS OUT TO BE A BARGE WITH A FAKE CONNING TOWER~~BUILT TO RESEMBLE A SUBMARINE!

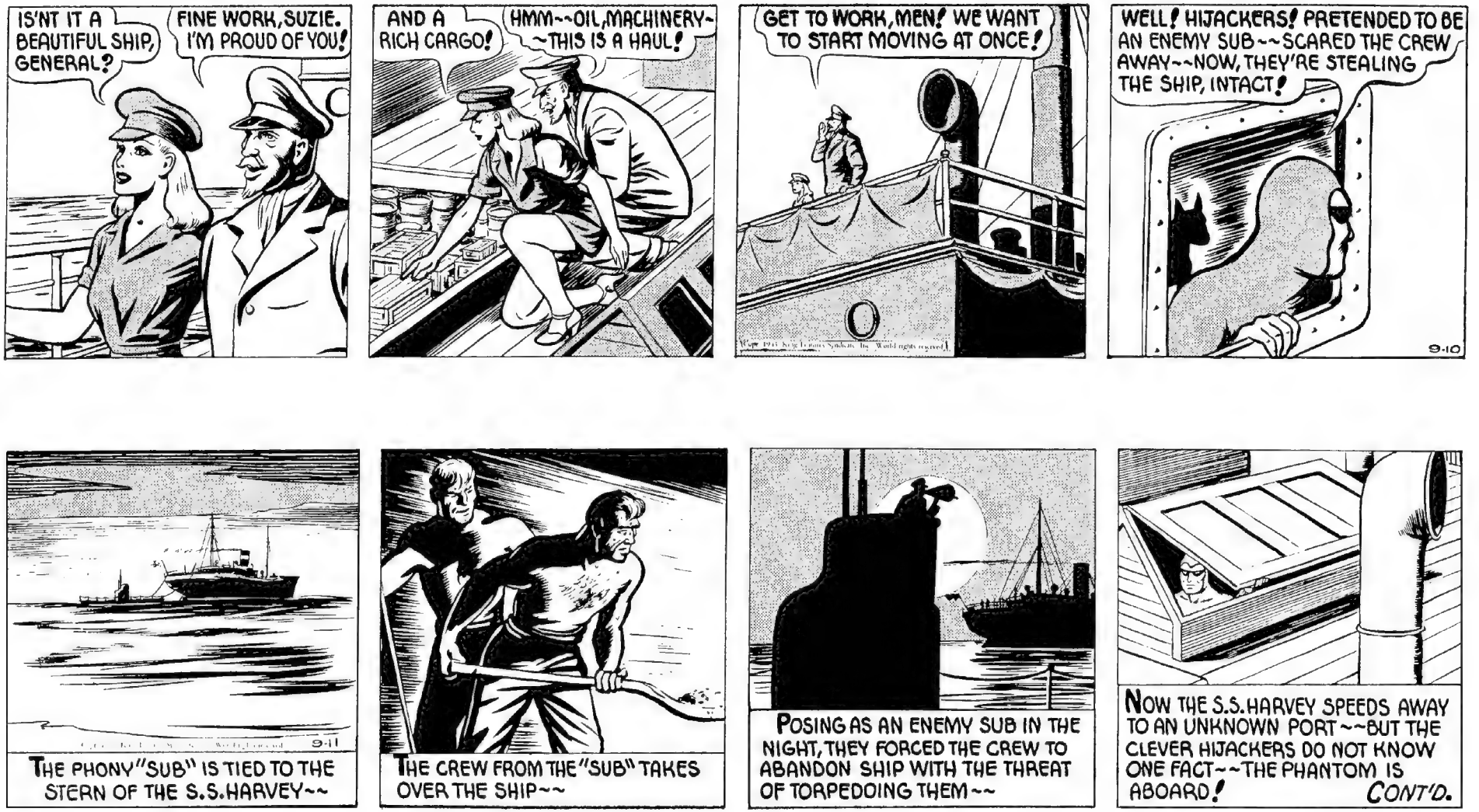
WELL~~I'LL BE DARNED! A PHONY! WHAT GOES ON HERE?

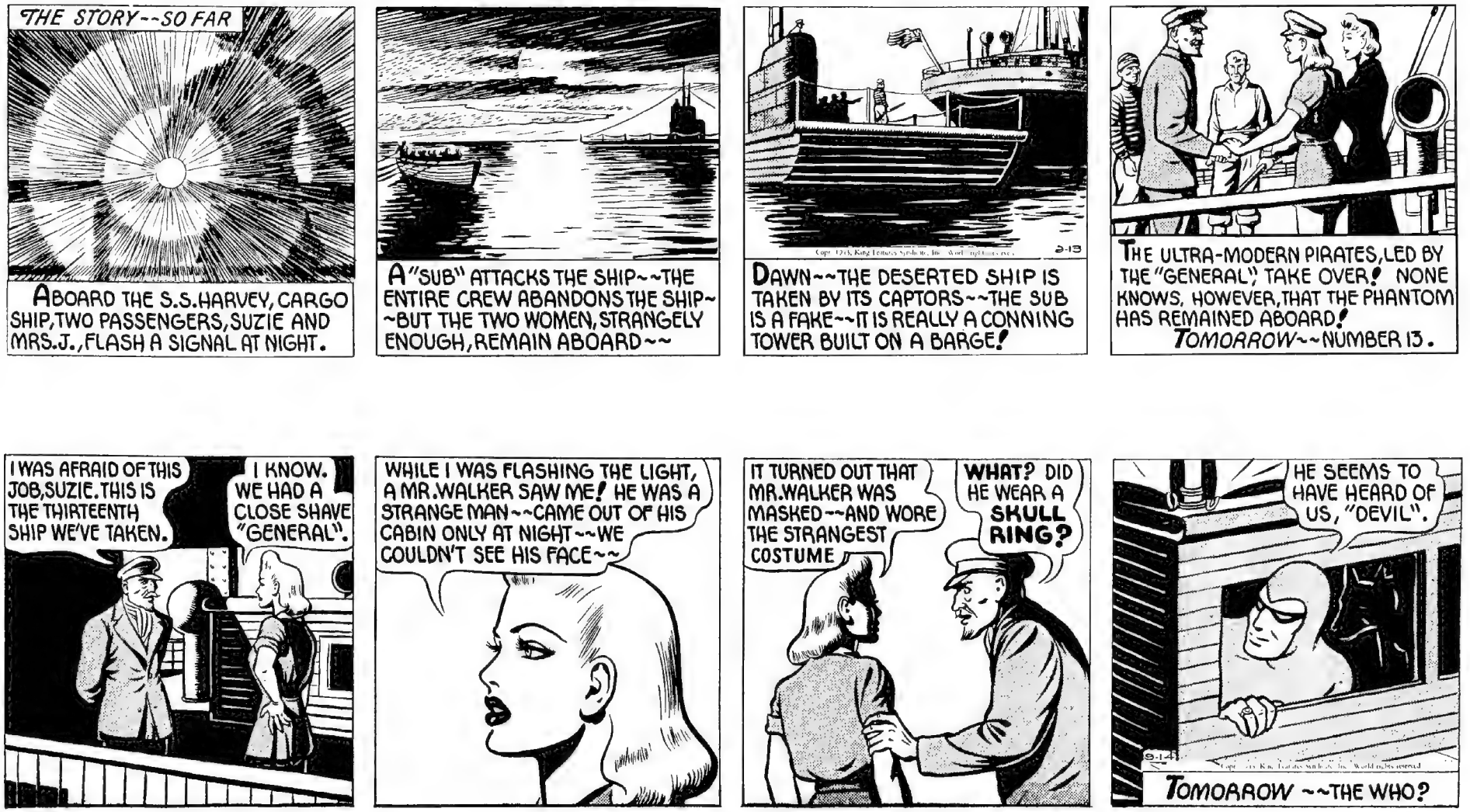

THE PHONY "SUBMARINE" COMES ALONGSIDE THE ABANDONED S.S. HARVEY~~


CATCH, SUZIE!
A LINE IS TOSSED TO THE DECK~~


A ROPE LADDER IS HOISTED UP FROM THE BARGE~~

WELL, SUZIE~~ YOU DID IT AGAIN!
IT WAS A CINCH, GENERAL!


IS'NT IT A BEAUTIFUL SHIP, GENERAL?
FINE WORK, SUZIE. I'M PROUD OF YOU!
AND A RICH CARGO!
HMM--OIL, MACHINERY--THIS IS A HAUL!
GET TO WORK, MEN! WE WANT TO START MOVING AT ONCE!
WELL! HIJACKERS! PRETENDED TO BE AN ENEMY SUB--SCARED THE CREW AWAY--NOW, THEY'RE STEALING THE SHIP, INTACT!
9-10
9-11
THE PHONY "SUB" IS TIED TO THE STERN OF THE S.S. HARVEY--
THE CREW FROM THE "SUB" TAKES OVER THE SHIP--
POSING AS AN ENEMY SUB IN THE NIGHT, THEY FORCED THE CREW TO ABANDON SHIP WITH THE THREAT OF TORPEDOING THEM--
NOW THE S.S. HARVEY SPEEDS AWAY TO AN UNKNOWN PORT--BUT THE CLEVER HIJACKERS DO NOT KNOW ONE FACT--THE PHANTOM IS ABOARD!
CONT'D.

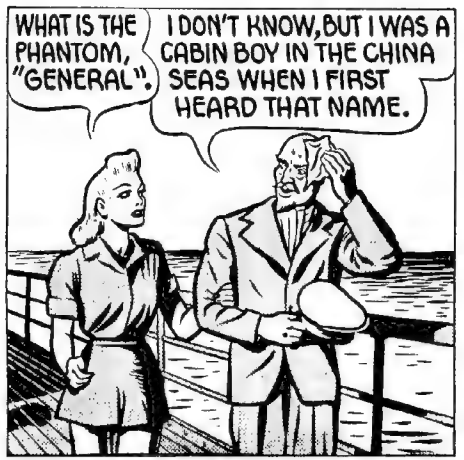

THE STORY--SO FAR
ABOARD THE S.S.HARVEY, CARGO SHIP, TWO PASSENGERS, SUZIE AND MRS.J., FLASH A SIGNAL AT NIGHT.
A "SUB" ATTACKS THE SHIP--THE ENTIRE CREW ABANDONS THE SHIP--BUT THE TWO WOMEN, STRANGELY ENOUGH, REMAIN ABOARD--
DAWN--THE DESERTED SHIP IS TAKEN BY ITS CAPTORS--THE SUB IS A FAKE--IT IS REALLY A CONNING TOWER BUILT ON A BARGE!
THE ULTRA-MODERN PIRATES, LED BY THE "GENERAL", TAKE OVER! NONE KNOWS, HOWEVER, THAT THE PHANTOM HAS REMAINED ABOARD!
TOMORROW--NUMBER 13.
I WAS AFRAID OF THIS JOB, SUZIE. THIS IS THE THIRTEENTH SHIP WE'VE TAKEN.
I KNOW. WE HAD A CLOSE SHAVE "GENERAL".
WHILE I WAS FLASHING THE LIGHT, A MR. WALKER SAW ME! HE WAS A STRANGE MAN--CAME OUT OF HIS CABIN ONLY AT NIGHT--WE COULDN'T SEE HIS FACE--
IT TURNED OUT THAT MR. WALKER WAS MASKED--AND WORE THE STRANGEST COSTUME
WHAT? DID HE WEAR A SKULL RING?
HE SEEMS TO HAVE HEARD OF US, "DEVIL".
TOMORROW --THE WHO?

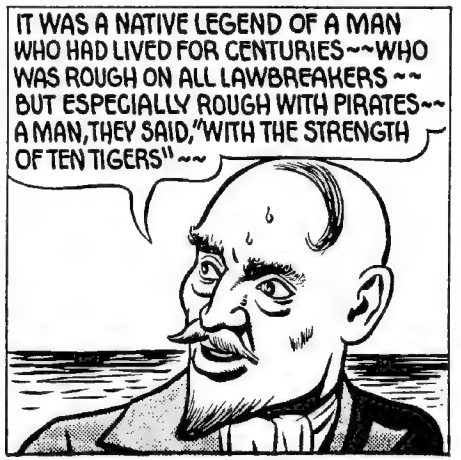
GEE, I DIDN'T NOTICE IF MR. WALKER WORE A SKULL RING. WHY ARE YOU SO EXCITED, "GENERAL"?
SUZIE~~WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM?

HE MUST HAVE GONE IN ONE OF THE LIFEBOATS.
DIRK!

DIRK, TAKE A SEARCHING PARTY ~~ SEE IF THERE'S ANYBODY ~~ OR ANYTHING ABOARD THIS SHIP, EXCEPT OUR PARTY. IF YOU SEE ANYTHING, SHOOT!

IF HE'S STILL ABOARD~~ WE'RE LOST! I'LL WAGER ANYTHING IT WAS~~ THE PHANTOM!
THE WHO?
9-15
TOMORROW~~"WHO"


WHAT IS THE PHANTOM, "GENERAL".
I DON'T KNOW, BUT I WAS A CABIN BOY IN THE CHINA SEAS WHEN I FIRST HEARD THAT NAME.

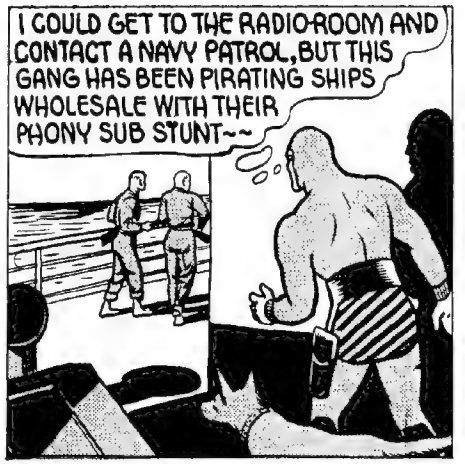

IT WAS A NATIVE LEGEND OF A MAN WHO HAD LIVED FOR CENTURIES~~WHO WAS ROUGH ON ALL LAWBREAKERS ~~ BUT ESPECIALLY ROUGH WITH PIRATES~~ A MAN, THEY SAID, "WITH THE STRENGTH OF TEN TIGERS"~~

STRANGE~~I STILL RECALL THAT PHRASE. I NEVER SAW HIM~~BUT THE NATIVES DESCRIBED HIS COSTUME~~HIS MASK~~ AND I DID SEE A MAN HE HAD HIT~~

ON THE SCOUNDREL'S BROKEN JAW WAS A SMALL SKULL MARK~ "THE SIGN OF THE PHANTOM," THEY SAID!
HOW THRILLING! BUT THIS MR. WALKER WAS A YOUNG MAN ~~AT LEAST~~I THINK SO~~
9-16

WHO'S THE "GENERAL" 'SPECT US TO FIND, DIRK?
DON'T KNOW. HE SAID~~ SHOOT ANYBODY OR ANYTHING THAT DON'T BELONG TO OUR CROWD.

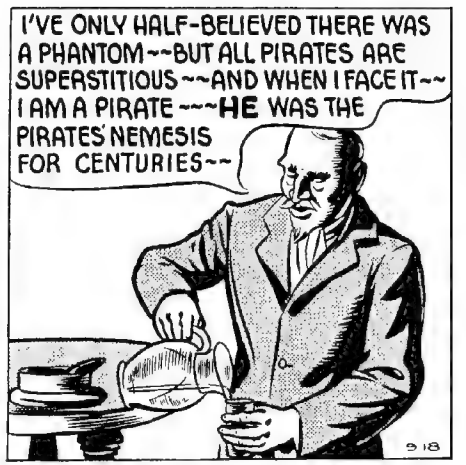
THEY'RE PROBABLY SEARCHING FOR ME. THE SAFEST PLACE FOR ME IS RIGHT AT THEIR HEELS.
THE PHANTOM MOVES BEHIND THEM, AS SILENTLY AS A CAT.


I COULD GET TO THE RADIO-ROOM AND CONTACT A NAVY PATROL, BUT THIS GANG HAS BEEN PIRATING SHIPS WHOLESALE WITH THEIR PHONY SUB STUNT~~

SO I'D BETTER WAIT UNTIL I FIND OUT WHAT THEY DO WITH THESE SHIPS~~ AND WHERE THEIR HIDE-OUT IS!

DIDN'T FIND NOBODY OR NOTHIN', "GENERAL".
GOOD! BUT TELL THE BOYS TO KEEP THEIR EYES OPEN, DIRK!

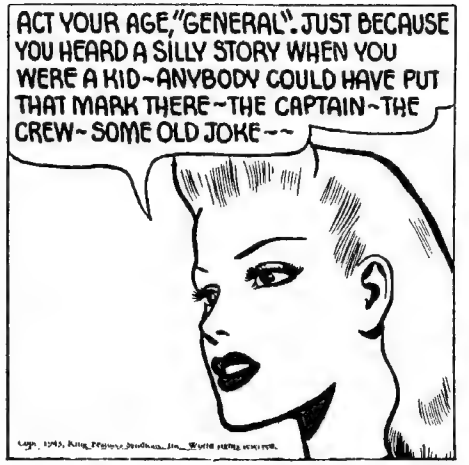
GEE, I'M DISAPPOINTED! I WAS HOPING THEY'D FIND HIM!
IT'S NO JOKING MATTER, SUZIE! WE CAN THANK OUR STARS HE'S NOT ON THIS SHIP!


I'VE ONLY HALF-BELIEVED THERE WAS A PHANTOM~~BUT ALL PIRATES ARE SUPERSTITIOUS~~AND WHEN I FACE IT~~ I AM A PIRATE~~~HE WAS THE PIRATES' NEMESIS FOR CENTURIES~~

CONT'D.

THE SIGN OF THE SKULL-THE PHANTOM'S MARK! HE'S ON THIS SHIP!

SEE--THERE--!
SO WHAT?

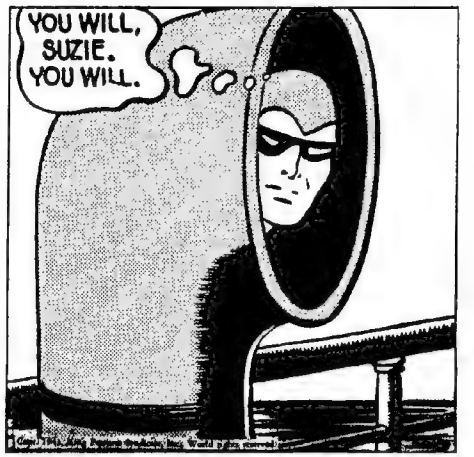

ACT YOUR AGE,"GENERAL". JUST BECAUSE YOU HEARD A SILLY STORY WHEN YOU WERE A KID~ANYBODY COULD HAVE PUT THAT MARK THERE~THE CAPTAIN~THE CREW~SOME OLD JOKE--

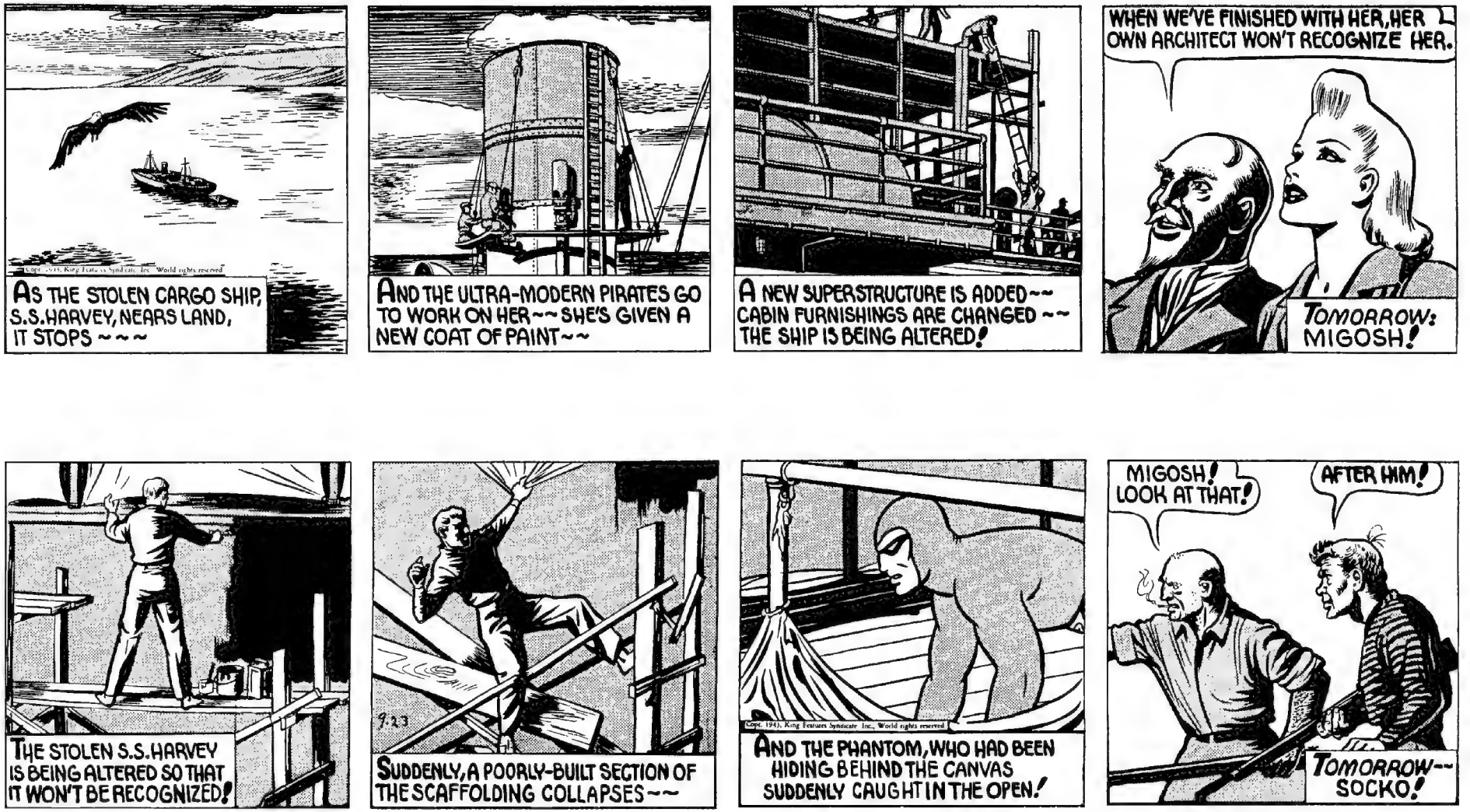
WE SEARCHED THE SHIP~HE'S NOT HERE. HE'S IN A LIFEBOAT, PROBABLY TRYING TO EXPLAIN TO THE CAPTAIN WHY HE'S WEARING THAT LOONY OUTFIT.

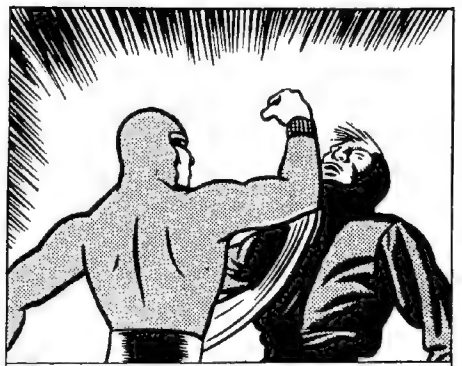
THE "GENERAL" HAD A FIT WHEN HE FOUND THAT SKULL MARK.
EVERYBODY WHO'S SAILED THE SEAS KNOWS THAT SILLY PHANTOM YARN. ONE OF OUR BOYS WAS HAVING FUN WITH THE "GENERAL".

I WAS HOPING THAT MR. WALKER HADN'T LEFT THE SHIP. I NEVER DID GET A CHANCE TO--REALLY TALK TO HIM.
9-21

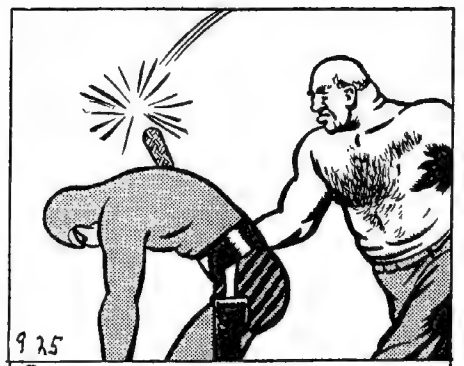
GOLLY, WHAT A MAGNIFICENT HUNK OF A MAN HE WAS! I HOPE I MEET HIM AGAIN--SOMEDAY!


YOU WILL, SUZIE. YOU WILL.


AS THE STOLEN CARGO SHIP, S.S. HARVEY, NEARS LAND, IT STOPS ~~~
AND THE ULTRA-MODERN PIRATES GO TO WORK ON HER~~ SHE'S GIVEN A NEW COAT OF PAINT~~
A NEW SUPERSTRUCTURE IS ADDED~~ CABIN FURNISHINGS ARE CHANGED ~~ THE SHIP IS BEING ALTERED!
WHEN WE'VE FINISHED WITH HER, HER OWN ARCHITECT WON'T RECOGNIZE HER.
TOMORROW: MIGOSH!
THE STOLEN S.S. HARVEY IS BEING ALTERED SO THAT IT WON'T BE RECOGNIZED!
SUDDENLY, A POORLY-BUILT SECTION OF THE SCAFFOLDING COLLAPSES~~
AND THE PHANTOM, WHO HAD BEEN HIDING BEHIND THE CANVAS SUDDENLY CAUGHT IN THE OPEN!
MIGOSH! LOOK AT THAT!
AFTER HIM!
TOMORROW-- SOCKO!



THE PHANTOM IS FIGHTING HARD~HIS IRON FISTS HAVE TO LAND ONLY ONCE ON ANY GIVEN JAW~~~

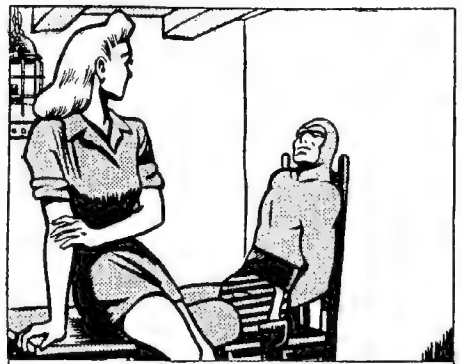


BUT THERE ARE TOO MANY~~THE QUARTERS ARE TOO CLOSE~~ONE FINALLY REACHES HIM FROM BEHIND~

I TELL YOU, SUZIE--I WON'T WAIT! I WON'T HAVE HIM ON THIS SHIP! I WANT HIM THROWN OVERBOARD AT ONCE!
NOW JUST A MINUTE, "GENERAL"~~

WE'VE GOT TO FIND OUT WHO HE IS~~ HOW MUCH HE KNOWS. HE MAY BE AN AGENT~~OR A COP~~IF SO, THAT MEANS OTHERS KNOW ABOUT US. WE MUST FIND OUT!

PLEASE, "GENERAL", LET ME TALK TO HIM FIRST. THEN~~YOU CAN DO WHAT YOU WANT TO HIM.


SUZIE HAS HER WAY~~A CHANCE TO TALK TO THE PHANTOM ALONE ~~ HE'S STILL UNCONSCIOUS.

SUDDENLY, HE SNAPS BACK TO CONSCIOUSNESS, SHAKES HIS HEAD AND STARTS TO HIS FEET~~

DON'T TRY TO ESCAPE. THE CABIN IS SURROUNDED BY ARMED MEN~~ AND THE "GENERAL" CAN HARDLY WAIT TO KNOCK YOU OFF FOR GOOD!

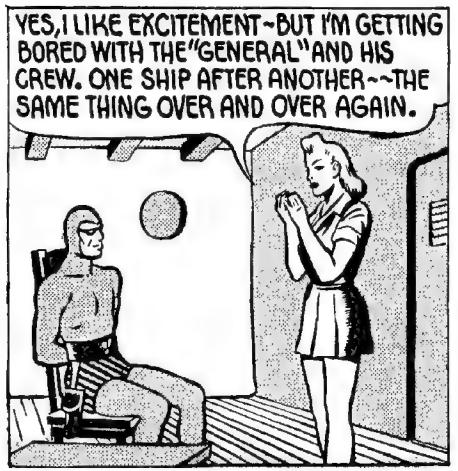
SO SIT BACK~~AND LET'S HAVE A QUIET CHAT. I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO STANDS BETWEEN YOU AND SUDDEN DEATH!

WHO ARE YOU REALLY~~ BY THE WAY?
YOUR FRIEND, THE "GENERAL", GUESSED RIGHT THE FIRST TIME.

I DON'T BELIEVE YOU'RE THIS FOUR-HUNDRED-YEAR OLD WONDER MAN I'VE HEARD SO MUCH ABOUT. I HAD AN AWFUL TEMPTATION TO REMOVE YOUR MASK WHILE YOU WERE "OUT".

BEFORE YOU DO THAT, SUPPOSE YOU TELL ME WHY YOU'RE WORKING WITH THESE PIRATES.

PIRATES? YES, I GUESS WE ARE. I NEVER THOUGHT OF IT THAT WAY. WELL~~I LIKE EXCITEMENT~~ADVENTURE~~ THAT'S WHY I LIKE YOU.
9-29


YES, I LIKE EXCITEMENT~BUT I'M GETTING BORED WITH THE "GENERAL" AND HIS CREW. ONE SHIP AFTER ANOTHER~~THE SAME THING OVER AND OVER AGAIN.

I WANT TO LEAVE THEM~BUT THEY HAVE A WAY OF HANGING ON TO PEOPLE WHO WORK WITH THEM~~AFRAID THAT AN EX-EMPLOYEE MIGHT SPILL THE BEANS~~YOU SEE.

THE "GENERAL" LETS PEOPLE LEAVE HIM ONLY IN A COFFIN! NOW~~YOU STRUCK ME AS A MAN WHO CAN FIGHT HIS WAY OUT OF ANYTHING~~GIVEN AN EVEN BREAK.

SUPPOSE I SAVE YOUR LIFE NOW~~I CAN! WILL YOU ESCAPE FROM THE "GENERAL" ~~AND TAKE ME WITH YOU?
9-30

WHY IS SUZIE TAKING SO LONG?
DON'T BE SO IMPATIENT, "GENERAL". HE CAN'T ESCAPE~AND THE SHARKS WILL WAIT.
REMEMBER, I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN SAVE YOU. THAT CROWD OUT THERE WILL TIE YOU IN A WEIGHTED SACK AND TOSS YOU TO THE SHARKS.
IF YOU'LL HELP ME ESCAPE FROM THE "GENERAL", I'LL SAVE YOU. BUT~I'M NO STOOL~PIGEON. IF WE ESCAPE~WE TELL NO ONE ABOUT THIS SHIP RACKET.
10-1
WHAT IS IT TO BE~~THE SHARKS ~~OR SUZIE?
SUZIE, I'M IN A TIGHT SPOT~~I'VE BEEN IN TIGHT SPOTS BEFORE~~I'VE GOTTEN OUT OF THEM~~
BUT I'VE NEVER LIED MY WAY OUT OF THEM~~AND IF I AGREED TO YOUR PROPOSAL, I WOULD BE DECEIVING YOU~~
~~FOR I INTEND TO SMASH THIS VICIOUS PIRATE RING AND EVERYONE IN IT, INCLUDING YOU, PRETTY SUZIE.
10-12
YOU'VE GOT NERVES OF IRON~~BUT I DON'T BELIEVE A WORD YOU'VE SAID, SIR GALAHAD. I THINK YOU'LL CHANGE YOUR MIND! REMEMBER THE SHARKS~
CONT'D.

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, SUZIE. I CONSIDER YOU THE MOST VICIOUS OF THIS PIRATE CREW.
SO?
YOU ARE YOUNG AND BEAUTIFUL--BUT FOR THE SAKE OF EXCITEMENT, YOU'VE USED YOUR CHARM TO PUT THIRTEEN SHIPS INTO THE HANDS OF YOUR PIRATE FRIENDS--
--THIRTEEN CREWS OF BRAVE MEN HAVE BEEN FORCED INTO LIFEBOATS-- PERHAPS TO THEIR DEATH! DID I SAY YOU WERE BEAUTIFUL? YOU'RE UGLY AS SIN!
10-4
THROW THAT FOOL TO THE SHARKS!
THE PHANTOM IS "PREPARED" FOR THE SHARKS!
UGLY AS SIN, AM I?
THE PHANTOM ALWAYS COMES BACK, THEY SAY. IS IT TRUE?
MAYBE.
NOT THIS TIME!
10-5

WAIT! LET ME SEE HIS FACE!

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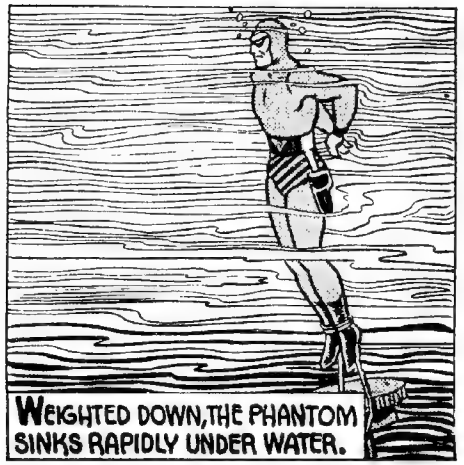
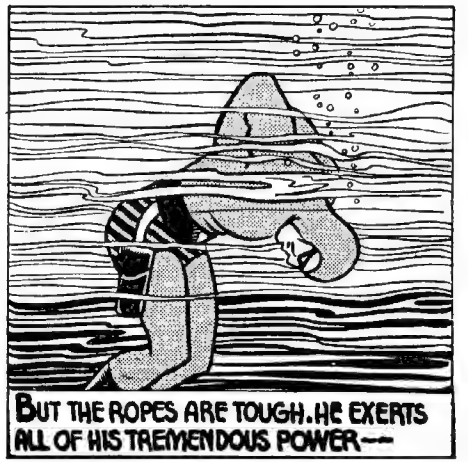
TOO LATE. NOBODY'LL EVER SEE HIS FACE~~EXCEPT THE FISH!

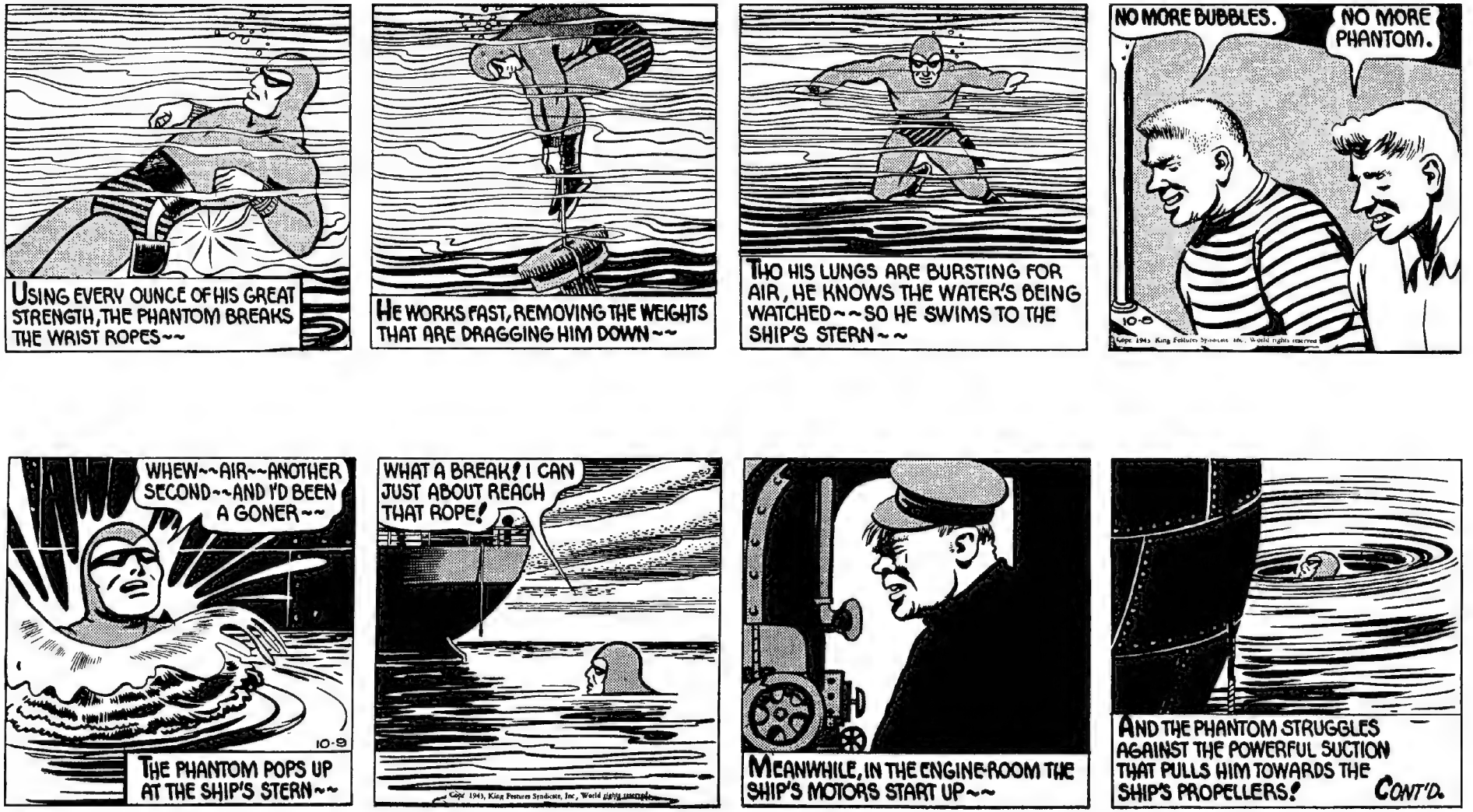
I DIDN'T EVEN SEE~~WHAT HE LOOKED LIKE~~AND NOW~~ HE'S GONE~~
10-6
TOMORROW~~BUBBLES.


WEIGHTED DOWN, THE PHANTOM SINKS RAPIDLY UNDER WATER.

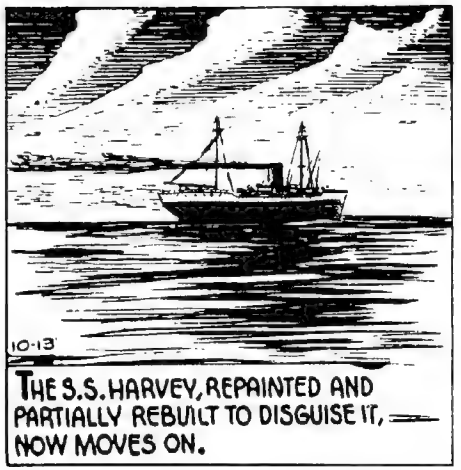
HE STRUGGLES, TRYING TO BREAK THE WRIST ROPES~~


BUT THE ROPES ARE TOUGH. HE EXERTS ALL OF HIS TREMENDOUS POWER~~

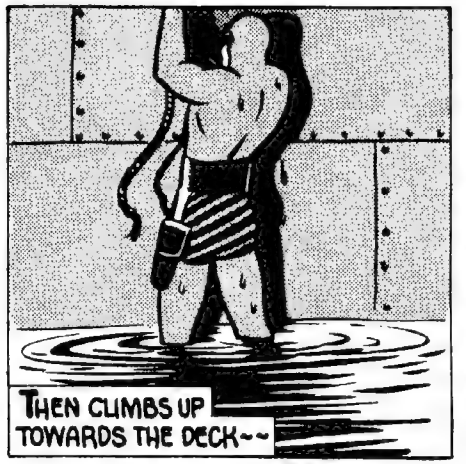
SEE THE BUBBLES? THAT'S WHERE HE IS.
WON'T BE ANY BUBBLES SOON!
10-7


USING EVERY OUNCE OF HIS GREAT STRENGTH, THE PHANTOM BREAKS THE WRIST ROPES~~
HE WORKS FAST, REMOVING THE WEIGHTS THAT ARE DRAGGING HIM DOWN~~
THO HIS LUNGS ARE BURSTING FOR AIR, HE KNOWS THE WATER'S BEING WATCHED~~SO HE SWIMS TO THE SHIP'S STERN~~
NO MORE BUBBLES.
NO MORE PHANTOM.
10-8
WHEW~~AIR~~ANOTHER SECOND~~AND I'D BEEN A GONER~~
10-9
THE PHANTOM POPS UP AT THE SHIP'S STERN~~
WHAT A BREAK! I CAN JUST ABOUT REACH THAT ROPE!
MEANWHILE, IN THE ENGINE-ROOM THE SHIP'S MOTORS START UP~~
AND THE PHANTOM STRUGGLES AGAINST THE POWERFUL SUCTION THAT PULLS HIM TOWARDS THE SHIP'S PROPELLERS!
CONT'D.

THE PHANTOM FIGHTS HIS WAY OUT OF THE POWERFUL SUCTION OF THE SHIP'S PROPELLERS ~~
THOUGHT I'D ~~ NEVER MAKE IT ~~
SUZIE, LOOK WHAT I FOUND IN THE SHIP'S ICEBOX. TWO GARDENIAS. YOU CAN~~ WELL, WHY ARE YOU SO GLUM?
I'LL ALWAYS WONDER WHAT HE LOOKED LIKE~~
I'LL ALWAYS WONDER ~~IF HE REALLY WAS ~~THE PHANTOM~
WHEN DO WE START MOVING?
SOON. TELL ME, SUZIE, NOW THAT THE PHANTOM~~ OR WHOEVER HE WAS, ~ IS DEAD~~
WHAT DID YOU TALK TO HIM ABOUT SO LONG, WHEN YOU WERE WITH HIM IN THE CABIN~~ BEFORE WE THREW HIM OVERBOARD?
YOU WEREN'T, BY ANY CHANCE, TRYING TO GET HIM TO HELP YOU GIVE US THE SLIP?
OF COURSE NOT, GENERAL!
REMEMBER, THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN HELP ANY OF MY EMPLOYEES TO QUIT IS THE UNDERTAKER!
TOMORROW~~~THE ROPE.

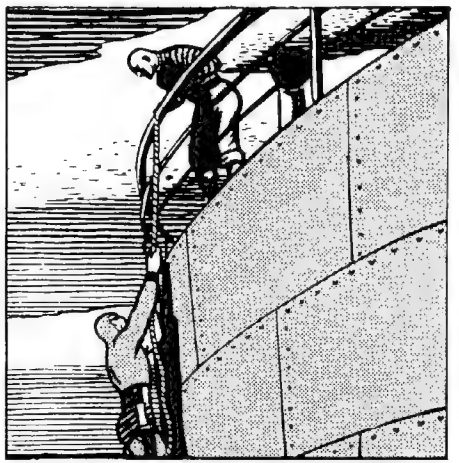

10-13
THE S.S. HARVEY, REPAINTED AND PARTIALLY REBUILT TO DISGUISE IT, NOW MOVES ON.

HOPE 'DEVIL' HAS KEPT HIDDEN ON DECK.
THE PHANTOM, PULLED ALONG AT THE SIDE, HANGS ON UNTIL DARK --

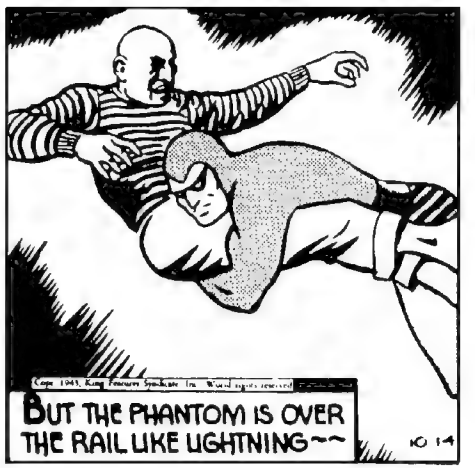

THEN CLIMBS UP TOWARDS THE DECK--

HUH--HERE'S A ROPE SOMEBODY FORGOT TO PULL UP---

HUH--ROPE WON'T COME UP. MUST BE CAUGHT ON SOMETHING DOWN THERE.



HEY--


BUT THE PHANTOM IS OVER THE RAIL LIKE LIGHTNING--
10-14

UH~~

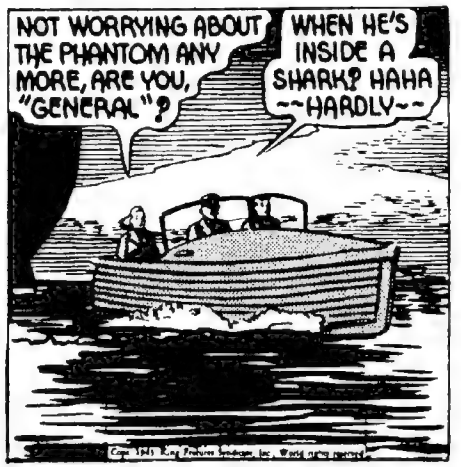
DEVIL, OLD FELLA! YOU WAITED FOR ME! MOVE OVER~~ WE'VE GOT TO HIDE.

I'M SURE I HEARD SOMEONE CRY OUT ~~HMM~~NOBODY ON DECK~~
10-15

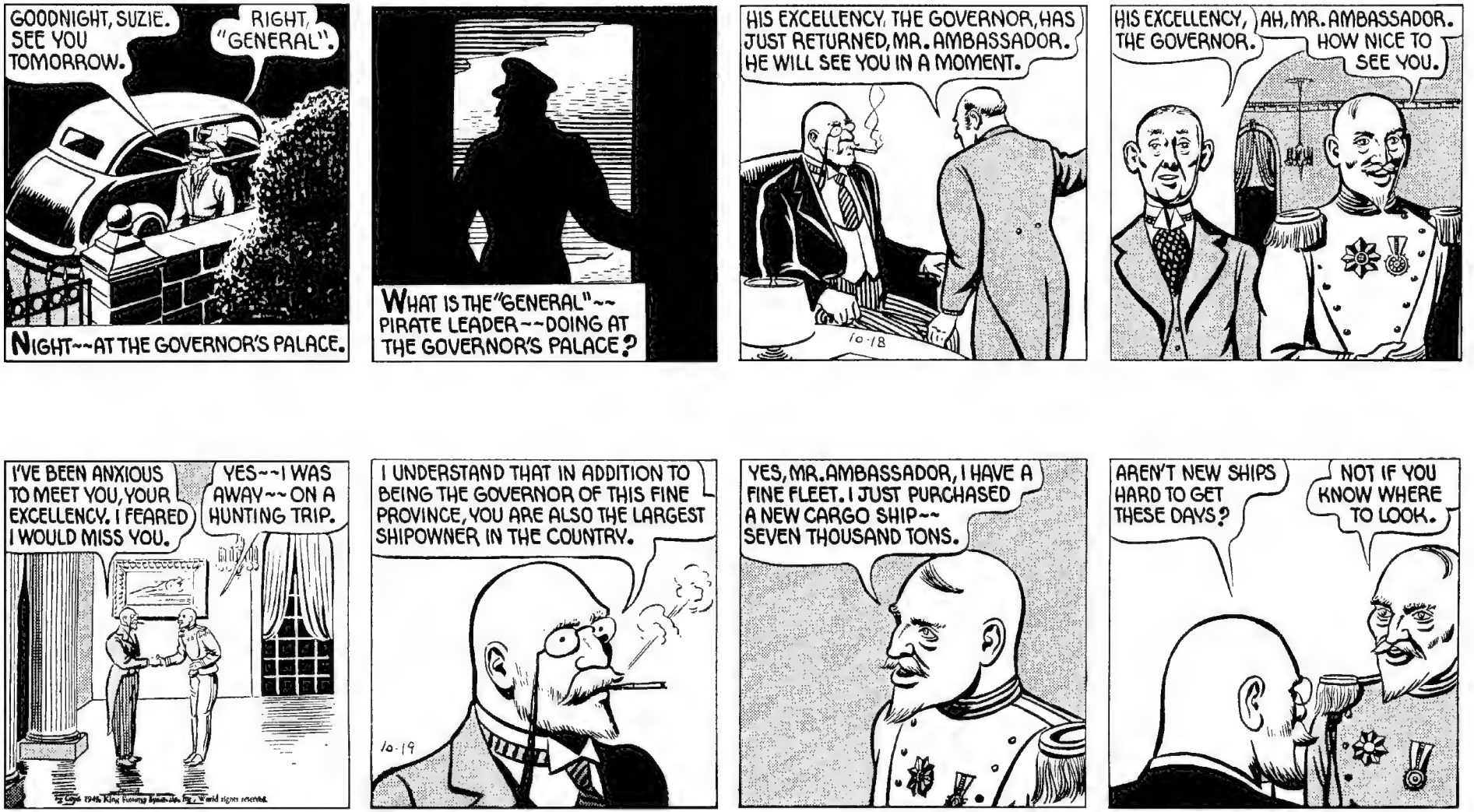
MUST HAVE BEEN THE WIND.

NIGHT, AND THE STOLEN S.S. HARVEY REACHES A SMALL TROPICAL PORT~~

HOME, AT LAST. WITH ANOTHER PRIZE!


NOT WORRYING ABOUT THE PHANTOM ANY MORE, ARE YOU, "GENERAL"?
WHEN HE'S INSIDE A SHARK? HAHA ~~HARDLY~~

DON'T KNOW WHERE WE ARE, "DEVIL"~~BUT I KNOW WHERE WE'RE GOING~~ RIGHT AFTER SUZIE~~ AND THE "GENERAL"!
10-16
CONT'D.

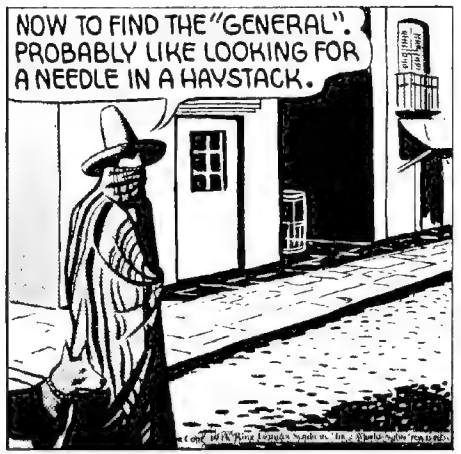

GOODNIGHT, SUZIE. SEE YOU TOMORROW.
RIGHT, "GENERAL".
NIGHT--AT THE GOVERNOR'S PALACE.
WHAT IS THE "GENERAL"-- PIRATE LEADER--DOING AT THE GOVERNOR'S PALACE?
HIS EXCELLENCY, THE GOVERNOR, HAS JUST RETURNED, MR. AMBASSADOR. HE WILL SEE YOU IN A MOMENT.
10-18
HIS EXCELLENCY, THE GOVERNOR.
AH, MR. AMBASSADOR. HOW NICE TO SEE YOU.
I'VE BEEN ANXIOUS TO MEET YOU, YOUR EXCELLENCY. I FEARED I WOULD MISS YOU.
YES--I WAS AWAY-- ON A HUNTING TRIP.
I UNDERSTAND THAT IN ADDITION TO BEING THE GOVERNOR OF THIS FINE PROVINCE, YOU ARE ALSO THE LARGEST SHIPOWNER IN THE COUNTRY.
10-19
YES, MR. AMBASSADOR, I HAVE A FINE FLEET. I JUST PURCHASED A NEW CARGO SHIP-- SEVEN THOUSAND TONS.
AREN'T NEW SHIPS HARD TO GET THESE DAYS?
NOT IF YOU KNOW WHERE TO LOOK.

WELL~~WE'RE HERE, DEVIL~~THOUGH WE'RE NOT SURE WHERE "HERE" IS.

SO THAT'S A NATIVE COSTUME.

WE'LL BUY THIS OUTFIT, CAFETERIA~STYLE, AND LEAVE THE MONEY ON THE SILL.

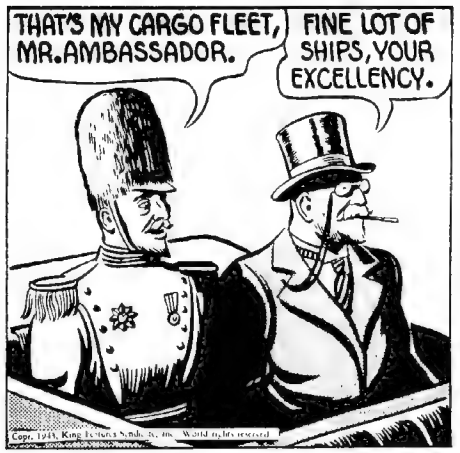
NOW, WE CAN GET AROUND WITHOUT ATTRACTING TOO MUCH OF A CROWD. FIRST TO FIND THE "GENERAL" AND SUZIE~~


NOW TO FIND THE "GENERAL". PROBABLY LIKE LOOKING FOR A NEEDLE IN A HAYSTACK.

A TROOP OF MOUNTED GUARDS SUDDENLY SWEEPS DOWN THE STREET~~

FOLLOWED BY A GLITTERING CAR~~

WHY~~THERE'S THE "GENERAL"!


THAT'S MY CARGO FLEET, MR. AMBASSADOR.
FINE LOT OF SHIPS, YOUR EXCELLENCY.

WHO'S THAT MAN WEARING THE FURRY HAT?
WHY--THAT'S THE GOVERNOR.

--HE IS A FINE MAN--BIGGEST MAN IN THE PROVINCE--AND THE RICHEST. ALL THOSE SHIPS ARE HIS.

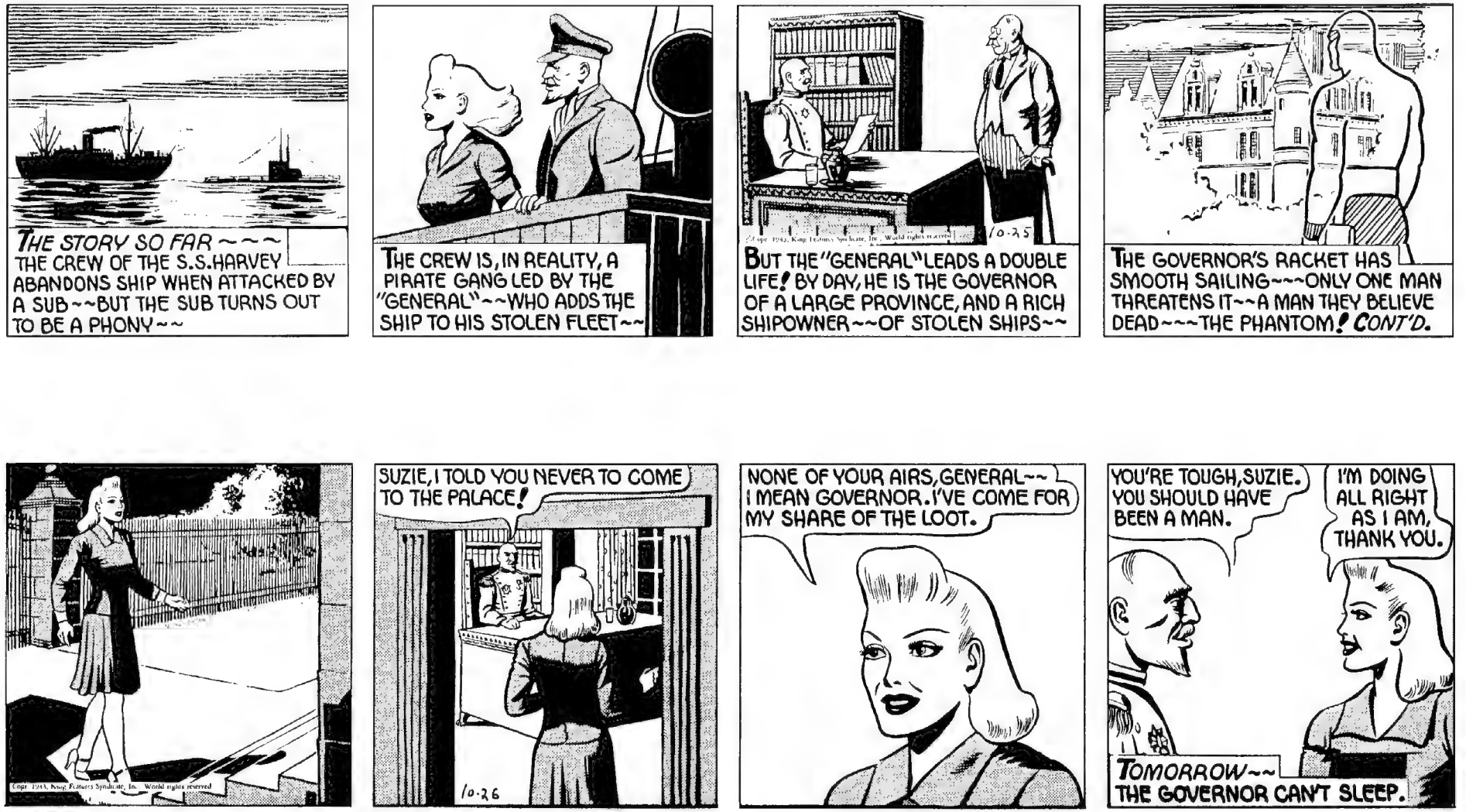
SO THE "GENERAL" IS THE GOVERNOR! WELL I'LL BE--!
10-22
TOMORROW--THE LAYOUT.

I'M BEGINNING TO GET THE PICTURE, 'DEVIL'. THE GOVERNOR OF THIS PROVINCE IS--UNKNOWN TO HIS SUBJECTS--A PIRATE.

ON DARK NIGHTS--HE STEALS OUT WITH HIS GANG AND HIJACKS A CARGO SHIP! HE GETS THE CARGO, AS WELL AS THE SHIP---
10 23

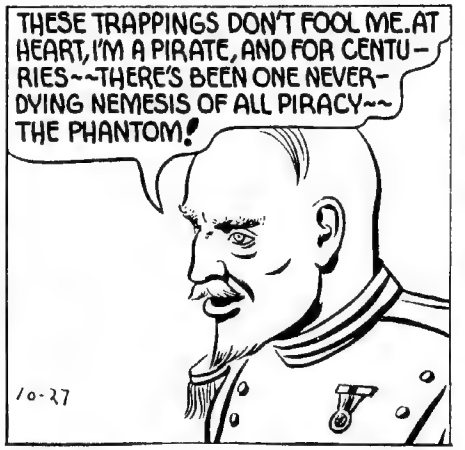
BY DAY, HE'S RESPECTABLE--A BIG-SHOT--GOVERNOR AND WEALTHY SHIPOWNER--OF SHIPS HE'S STOLEN.

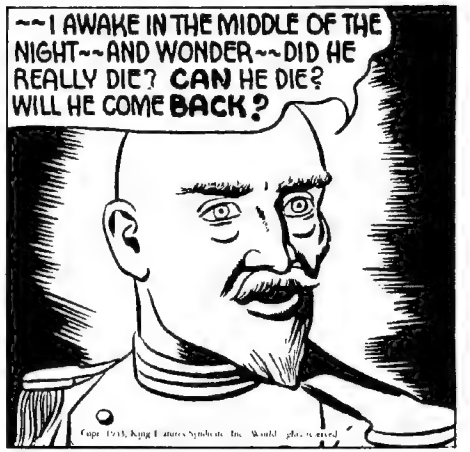
LOOKS LIKE WE HAVE A MAN-SIZED JOB ON OUR HANDS--TO EXPOSE HIM AND BRING HIM TO JUSTICE. MY WORD AGAINST HIS ISN'T ENOUGH. HOW DO WE BEGIN, "DEVIL"?
CONT'D.


THE STORY SO FAR ~~~
THE CREW OF THE S.S.HARVEY ABANDONS SHIP WHEN ATTACKED BY A SUB~~BUT THE SUB TURNS OUT TO BE A PHONY~~
THE CREW IS, IN REALITY, A PIRATE GANG LED BY THE "GENERAL"~~WHO ADDS THE SHIP TO HIS STOLEN FLEET~~
10-25
BUT THE "GENERAL" LEADS A DOUBLE LIFE! BY DAY, HE IS THE GOVERNOR OF A LARGE PROVINCE, AND A RICH SHIPOWNER~~OF STOLEN SHIPS~~
THE GOVERNOR'S RACKET HAS SMOOTH SAILING~~~ONLY ONE MAN THREATENS IT~~A MAN THEY BELIEVE DEAD~~~THE PHANTOM! CONT'D.
SUZIE, I TOLD YOU NEVER TO COME TO THE PALACE!
10-26
NONE OF YOUR AIRS, GENERAL~~ I MEAN GOVERNOR. I'VE COME FOR MY SHARE OF THE LOOT.
YOU'RE TOUGH, SUZIE. YOU SHOULD HAVE BEEN A MAN.
I'M DOING ALL RIGHT AS I AM, THANK YOU.
TOMORROW~~ THE GOVERNOR CAN'T SLEEP.

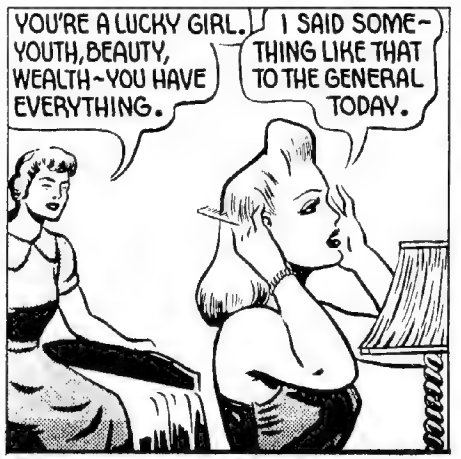
HMM, WE GOT A FINE CARGO IN THAT LAST ONE~~OIL, GRAIN~~
NOT TO MENTION THE SHIP.

WHY DO YOU LOOK SO WORRIED? YOU'RE RICH~~IMPORTANT~~YOU SHOULD BE HAPPY, GOVERNOR~~


THESE TRAPPINGS DON'T FOOL ME. AT HEART, I'M A PIRATE, AND FOR CENTURIES~~THERE'S BEEN ONE NEVER-DYING NEMESIS OF ALL PIRACY~~ THE PHANTOM!
10-27

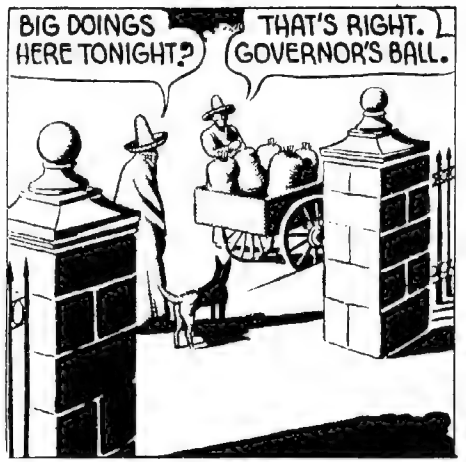

~~I AWAKE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT~~AND WONDER~~DID HE REALLY DIE? CAN HE DIE? WILL HE COME BACK?

SO YOU'RE GOING TO THE GOVERNOR'S BALL TONIGHT, SUZIE?
YES, I PRACTICALLY BLACKMAILED HIM INTO INVITING ME. I LIKE PARTIES.
10 28


YOU'RE A LUCKY GIRL. YOUTH, BEAUTY, WEALTH~YOU HAVE EVERYTHING.
I SAID SOMETHING LIKE THAT TO THE GENERAL TODAY.

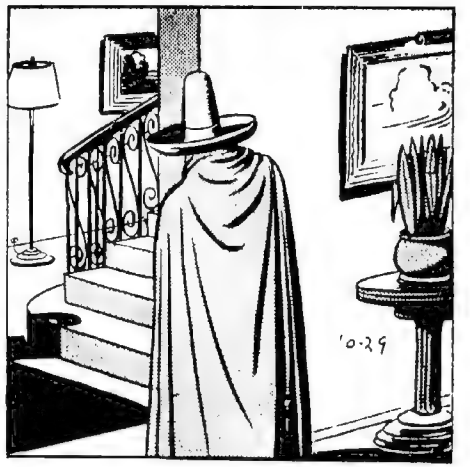
HE CAN'T ENJOY IT~~HE'S AFRAID THE PHANTOM WILL COME BACK~~BUT I KNOW THE PHANTOM'S DEAD~~

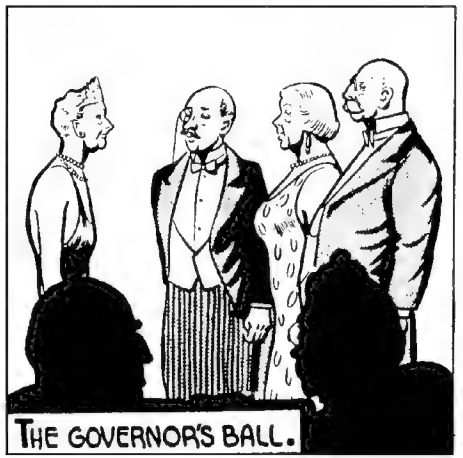
I HAVE EVERYTHING~~EXCEPT WHAT I REALLY WANT! THE ONLY MAN I'VE EVER LOVED~~AND HE DIED ~~HATING ME!

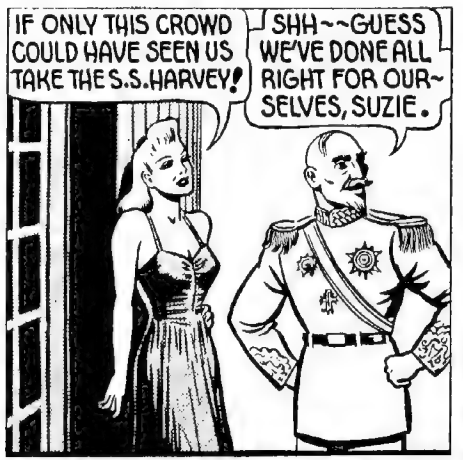

BIG DOINGS HERE TONIGHT?
THAT'S RIGHT. GOVERNOR'S BALL.

I'LL GIVE YOU A HAND.
THANKS.

WAIT HERE, "DEVIL".

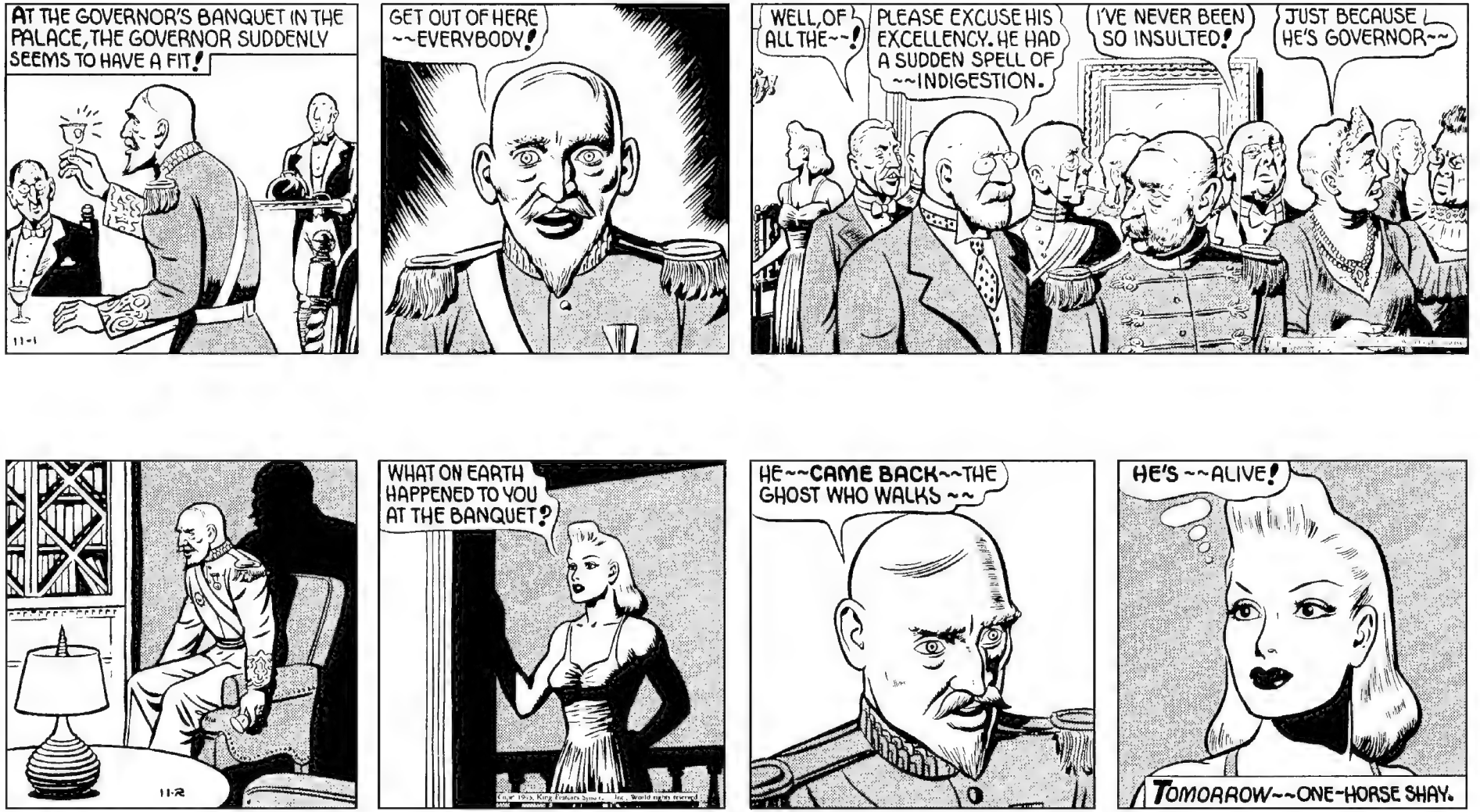

10-29


THE GOVERNOR'S BALL.

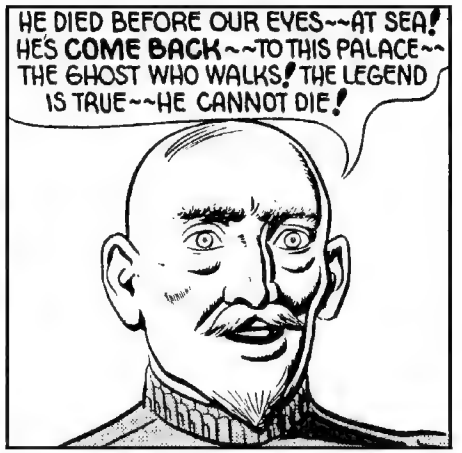

IF ONLY THIS CROWD COULD HAVE SEEN US TAKE THE S.S. HARVEY!
SHH~~GUESS WE'VE DONE ALL RIGHT FOR OUR~SELVES, SUZIE.

HONORED GUESTS, I AM PLEASED TO SEE YOU AT MY HUMBLE TABLE. I PROPOSE A TOAST TO~~
10-30

CONT'D.

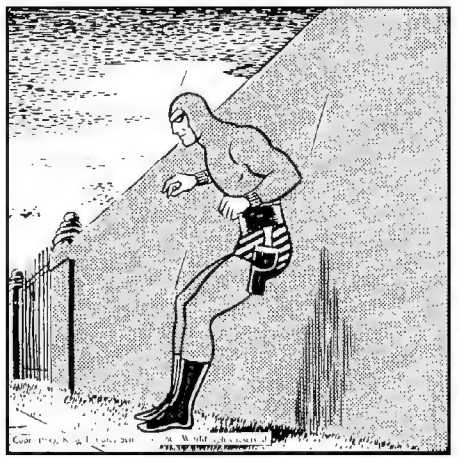

AT THE GOVERNOR'S BANQUET IN THE PALACE, THE GOVERNOR SUDDENLY SEEMS TO HAVE A FIT!
11-1
GET OUT OF HERE ~~EVERYBODY!
WELL, OF ALL THE~~!
PLEASE EXCUSE HIS EXCELLENCY. HE HAD A SUDDEN SPELL OF ~~INDIGESTION.
I'VE NEVER BEEN SO INSULTED!
JUST BECAUSE HE'S GOVERNOR~~
11-2
WHAT ON EARTH HAPPENED TO YOU AT THE BANQUET?
HE~~CAME BACK~~THE GHOST WHO WALKS ~~
HE'S ~~ALIVE!
TOMORROW~~ONE-HORSE SHAY.

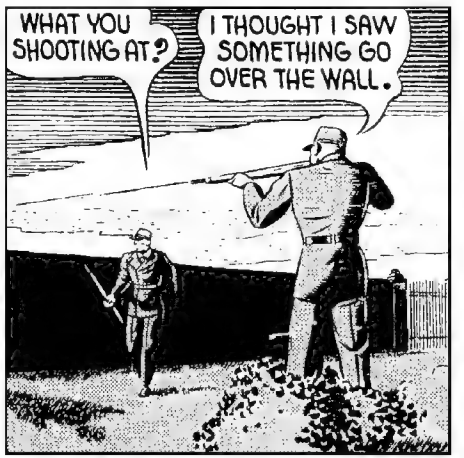
BUCK UP! YOU'RE FALLING APART LIKE A ONE-HORSE SHAY!
WHAT CAN I DO, SUZIE?


HE DIED BEFORE OUR EYES--AT SEA! HE'S COME BACK--TO THIS PALACE-- THE GHOST WHO WALKS! THE LEGEND IS TRUE--HE CANNOT DIE!

YOU SOUND LIKE AN OLD WOMAN! IF HE PUT THAT MARK ON YOUR GLASS, HE'S AS ALIVE AS YOU ARE-- EVEN MORE SO.
11-3

IF HE'S ALIVE--HE MAY BE ON THE GROUNDS--HE MAY BE IN THE PALACE! GUARDS!

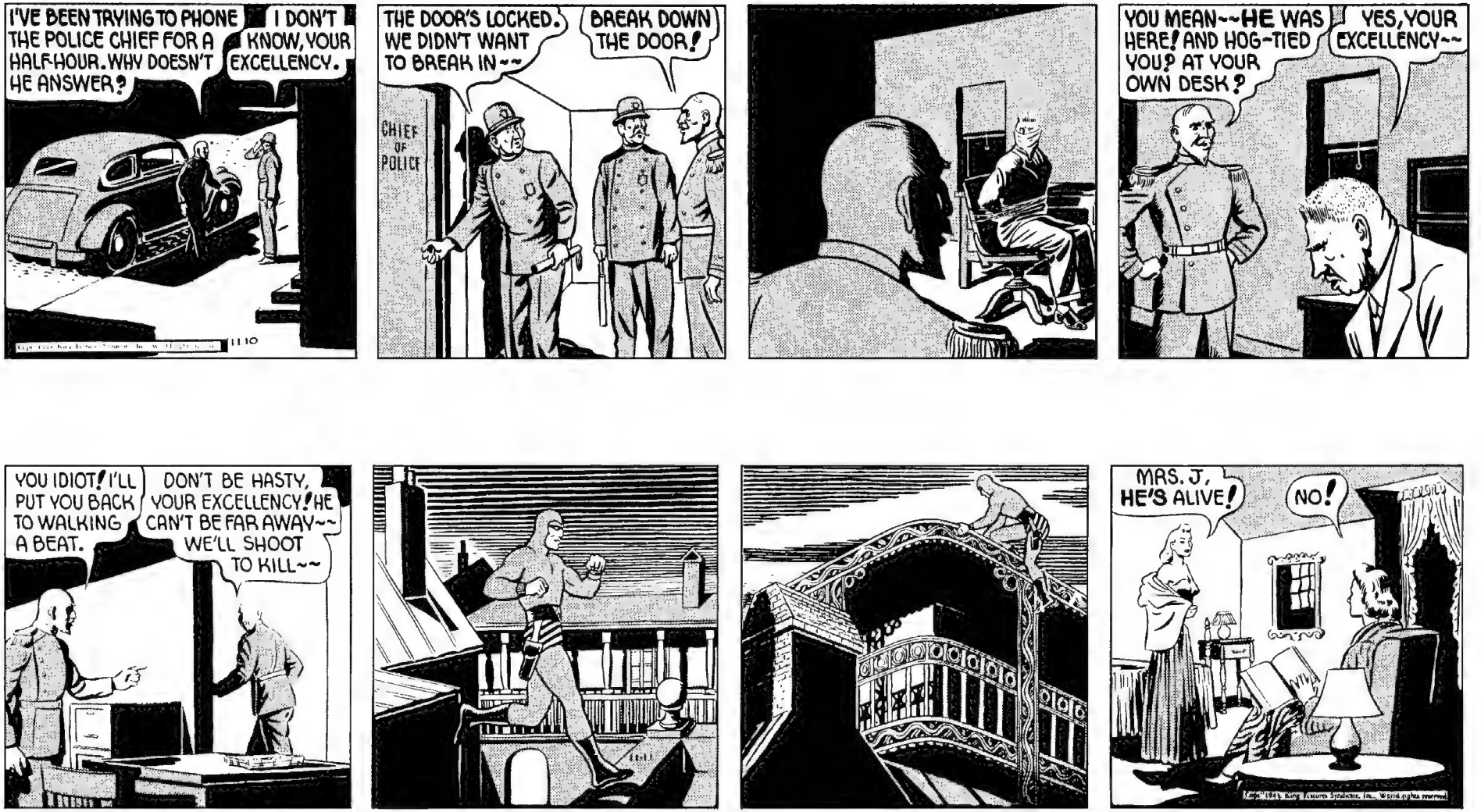



WHAT YOU SHOOTING AT?
I THOUGHT I SAW SOMETHING GO OVER THE WALL.

HE "THOUGHT HE SAW SOMETHING GO OVER THE WALL"! THESE IDIOTS WOULD LET ME BE MURDERED IN MY OWN HOUSE! GET THE POLICE CHIEF AT ONCE!
11-4
TOMORROW--BE SURE HE'S DEAD.

CHIEF, THERE'S A MASKED MAN IN THIS TOWN WHOM I WANT SHOT ON SIGHT.
MASKED MAN?
THAT'S RIGHT. HE WEARS A QUEER COSTUME ~~LIKE TIGHTS. HE MAY BE DISGUISED~~BUT FIND HIM~~
11 5
BUT WHERE? WHO IS HE?
HE IS~~NEVER MIND. FIND HIM! IF YOU DON'T, YOU'RE FIRED!
SEARCH THE TOWN AND THE COUNTRY-SIDE! SHOOT TO KILL. AND MOST IMPORTANT~~AFTER YOU'VE SHOT HIM~~BE SURE HE'S DEAD!
THE POLICE AND MILITIA SEARCH FOR A MYSTERIOUS MASKED MAN! THEIR ORDERS ARE~~"SHOOT TO KILL, AND BE SURE HE'S DEAD!"
~~BUT, YOUR EXCELLENCY, WE'RE DOING ALL WE CAN~~WE HAVEN'T A SINGLE CLUE YET.
CHIEF, YOUR JOB DEPENDS ON FIND-ING THIS MAN! YOU HAVE UNTIL DAWN ~~OR YOU'RE FIRED!
UNTIL DAWN? BUT YOUR EXCELLENCY! WE DON'T KNOW WHERE TO LOOK!
CONT'D.

THE GOVERNOR GIVES ME UNTIL DAWN TO FIND THIS--MASKED MAN-- OR I'M FIRED! WHERE CAN I FIND HIM?
BEHIND YOU.
DON'T GET UP FOR ME, CHIEF.
HOW THE--? ARE YOU--?
I'VE COME TO TELL YOU THAT YOUR BOSS--THE GOVERNOR OF THIS PROVINCE, IS A PIRATE. AND I CAN PROVE IT!
YOU'RE MAD!
IF OUR POSITIONS WERE REVERSED, I'D PROBABLY SAY THE SAME THING. BUT LISTEN TO ME.
YOUR GOVERNOR IS A PIRATE. THE LATEST ADDITION TO HIS FLEET WAS FORMERLY THE S.S. HARVEY--I WAS A PASSENGER ON IT--
HIS ENTIRE FLEET IS COMPOSED OF STOLEN SHIPS.
YOU'RE MAD! GIVE YOURSELF UP --PEACEFULLY--
I'LL NEED A LITTLE TIME TO GET AWAY- SO PLEASE PARDON THIS INDIGNITY--
YOU'LL NEVER GET AWAY ALIVE!
I WORK WITH THE POLICE--NOT AGAINST THEM. I'VE DONE MY DUTY IN COMING TO YOU. I HOPE YOU'RE NOT UNCOMFORTABLE-GOODBYE--


I'VE BEEN TRYING TO PHONE THE POLICE CHIEF FOR A HALF-HOUR. WHY DOESN'T HE ANSWER?
I DON'T KNOW, YOUR EXCELLENCY.
THE DOOR'S LOCKED. WE DIDN'T WANT TO BREAK IN~~
BREAK DOWN THE DOOR!
CHIEF OF POLICE
YOU MEAN~~HE WAS HERE! AND HOG-TIED YOU? AT YOUR OWN DESK?
YES, YOUR EXCELLENCY~~
YOU IDIOT! I'LL PUT YOU BACK TO WALKING A BEAT.
DON'T BE HASTY, YOUR EXCELLENCY! HE CAN'T BE FAR AWAY~~ WE'LL SHOOT TO KILL~~
MRS. J, HE'S ALIVE!
NO!

IMAGINE, MRS. J, THERE WAS THE GOVERNOR, AT THE BANQUET TABLE. HE SEES THE SKULL IN HIS GLASS~~ AND THROWS A FIT!

REMEMBER, WE DUMPED THE PHANTOM OVERBOARD, IN MID~OCEAN. SOMEHOW, HE GOT TO SHORE~~AND TO THE PALACE! THE GOVERNOR WAS BABBLING LIKE A BABY.

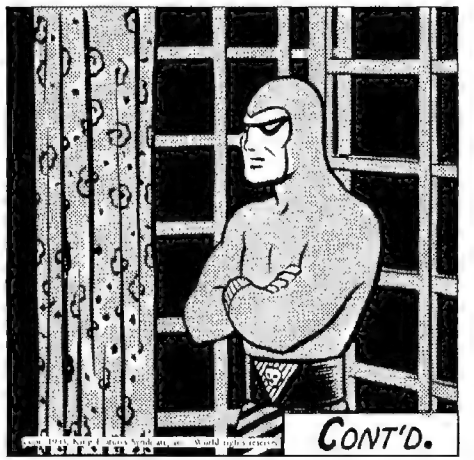
THEN, WITH THE POLICE SCOURING THE TOWN, HE VISITS THE POLICE CHIEF~~ AND LEAVES HIM TIED IN HIS CHAIR! WHAT A MAN! HE'S FOR ME!

STOP THAT ROMANTIC PRATTLE, SUZIE! DON'T YOU REALIZE THAT IF HE ISN'T SHOT, WE MAY BE ALL HUNG AS PIRATES?

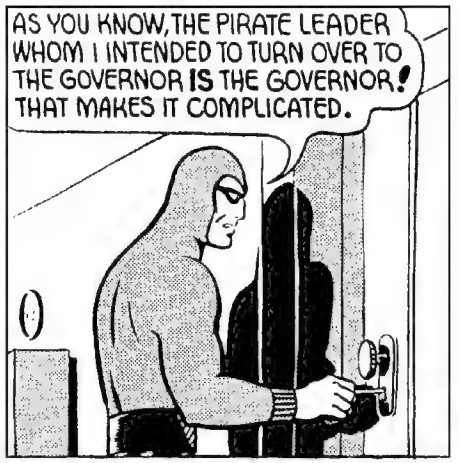
GOODNIGHT, SUZIE~AND LET'S HOPE THAT YOUR PHANTOM DREAM MAN IS DEAD BEFORE MORNING!

SHE'S RIGHT, I GUESS, BUT I WOULD LIKE TO SEE HIM ONCE BEFORE THEY~~FIND HIM~~

SUDDENLY, THE CURTAINS RUSTLE~~~

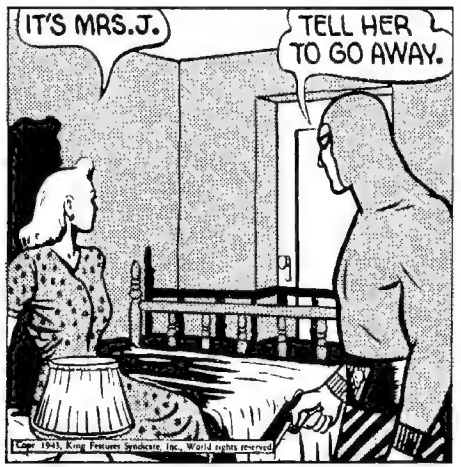

CONT'D.

HOW DID YOU ESCAPE FROM THE SHARKS? HOW DID YOU ~~
I HAVEN'T TIME FOR QUESTIONS, SUZIE.


AS YOU KNOW, THE PIRATE LEADER WHOM I INTENDED TO TURN OVER TO THE GOVERNOR IS THE GOVERNOR! THAT MAKES IT COMPLICATED.

THERE MUST BE A HIGHER AUTHORITY IN THIS COUNTRY.
YES, THE PRESIDENT.

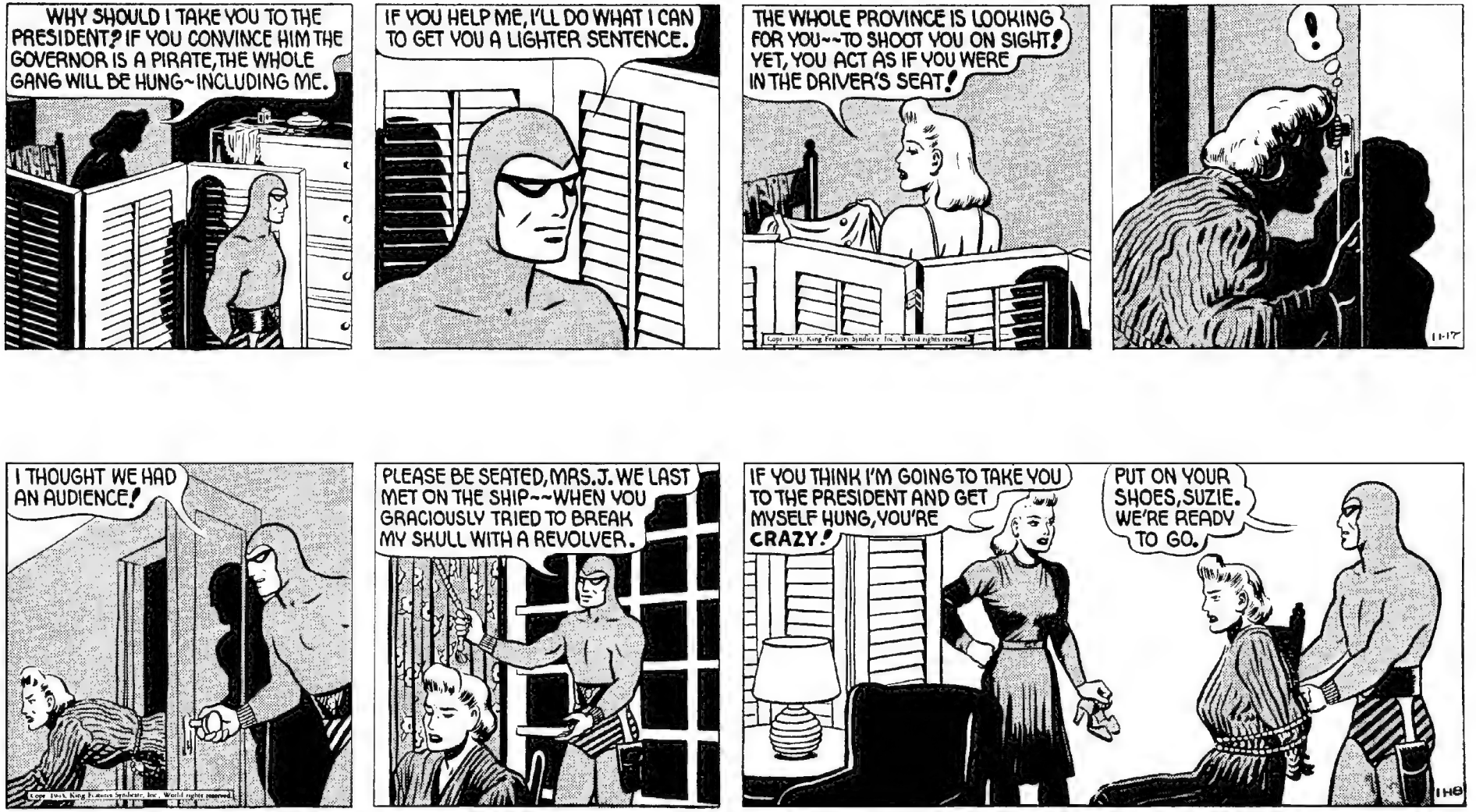
SUZIE, I FORGOT MY BOOK. WILL YOU OPEN THE DOOR?
11-15


IT'S MRS. J.
TELL HER TO GO AWAY.

I'M-TOO SLEEPY TO GET UP. GET YOUR BOOK---IN THE MORNING.
11-16

STRANGE--SUZIE NEVER LOCKED HER DOOR BEFORE.

NOW, GET DRESSED. YOU'RE GOING TO TAKE ME TO THE PRESIDENT.

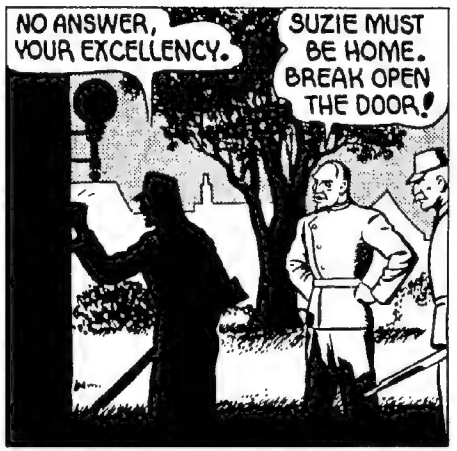

WHY SHOULD I TAKE YOU TO THE PRESIDENT? IF YOU CONVINCE HIM THE GOVERNOR IS A PIRATE, THE WHOLE GANG WILL BE HUNG~INCLUDING ME.
IF YOU HELP ME, I'LL DO WHAT I CAN TO GET YOU A LIGHTER SENTENCE.
THE WHOLE PROVINCE IS LOOKING FOR YOU~~TO SHOOT YOU ON SIGHT! YET, YOU ACT AS IF YOU WERE IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT!
!
I THOUGHT WE HAD AN AUDIENCE!
PLEASE BE SEATED, MRS. J. WE LAST MET ON THE SHIP~~WHEN YOU GRACIOUSLY TRIED TO BREAK MY SKULL WITH A REVOLVER.
IF YOU THINK I'M GOING TO TAKE YOU TO THE PRESIDENT AND GET MYSELF HUNG, YOU'RE CRAZY!
PUT ON YOUR SHOES, SUZIE. WE'RE READY TO GO.

COME ALONG, SUZIE.
NO, I WON'T. I'M NOT A STOOL-PIGEON!
11-19

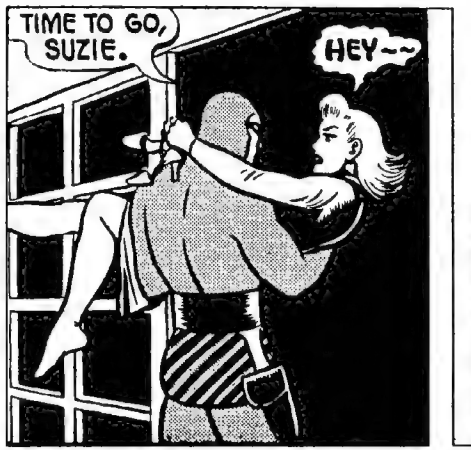
AT THAT MOMENT, IN THE STREET BELOW--

I'VE A HUNCH SUZIE KNOWS SOMETHING ABOUT THE PHANTOM--OR HE MAY HAVE COME HERE--

THE GOVERNOR! THEY'VE SURROUNDED THE HOUSE! LET'S SEE YOU WALK OUT OF THIS ONE, GHOST WHO WALKS!


NO ANSWER, YOUR EXCELLENCY.
SUZIE MUST BE HOME. BREAK OPEN THE DOOR!

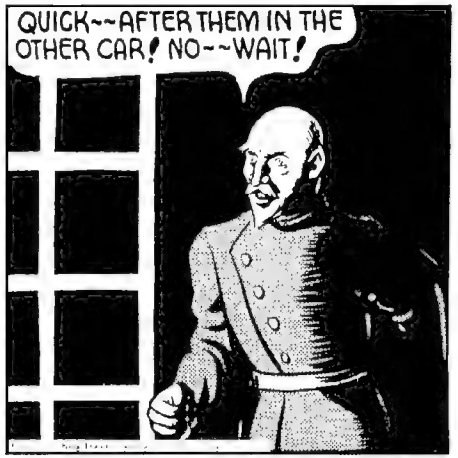
NOW WHAT, MASTER MIND?
11-20


TIME TO GO, SUZIE.
HEY--

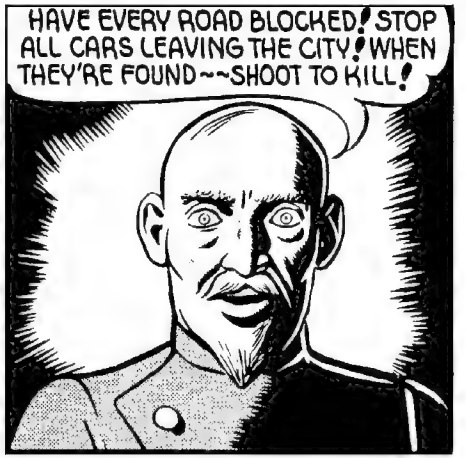
THIS IS THE THIRD FLOOR-- YOU CAN'T--NO--!
CONT'D.

AS THE PIRATE GOVERNOR'S MEN SURROUND SUZIE'S HOUSE, THE PHANTOM MOVES FAST~~
HE CARRIES SUZIE, AS IF SHE WERE A FEATHER.
A GUARD, CAUGHT BY SURPRISE, STARES WITH OPEN-MOUTHED ASTONISHMENT~
~~AND NEVER GETS THE CHANCE TO CLOSE HIS MOUTH!
"DEVIL", WAITING FOR HIS MASTER, JUMPS OUT OF THE BUSHES~~
AND LEAPS AT A GUARD WHO HAS TAKEN A BEAD ON THE SWIFTLY-MOVING PHANTOM~~
THE PHANTOM TAKES A QUICK SHOT ON THE RUN, HITTING THE GUARD'S RIFLE WITH HIS FAMED AND UNCANNY ACCURACY~~
GOOD BOY, "DEVIL"!

THE GOVERNOR'S CHAUFFEUR TRIES TO GET OUT OF THE CAR--BUT THE PHANTOM IS QUICKER--
OUCH!
SORRY--I'M IN A HURRY!
11-24
ONE OF THE GOVERNOR'S GUARDS RUSHES TOWARDS THE CAR--
HEY--
KEEP YOUR HEAD DOWN!
WHERE ARE THEY?
OUTSIDE!
GONE--IN MY CAR!
11-25


QUICK--AFTER THEM IN THE OTHER CAR! NO--WAIT!

WHERE ARE THEY GOING?
HE'S FORCING SUZIE TO GUIDE HIM TO THE CAPITAL--TO THE PRESIDENT!


HAVE EVERY ROAD BLOCKED! STOP ALL CARS LEAVING THE CITY! WHEN THEY'RE FOUND--SHOOT TO KILL!

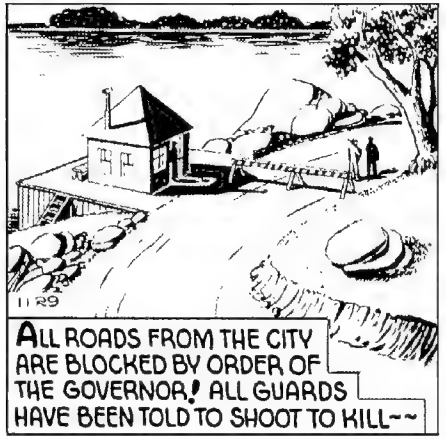
NOT SUZIE! HE KIDNAPPED HER!
I'M TAKING NO CHANCES! MY ORDER STANDS!

I'M STILL DIZZY! HOW DID YOU DO IT?
WHICH WAY TO THE CAPITAL, SUZIE?

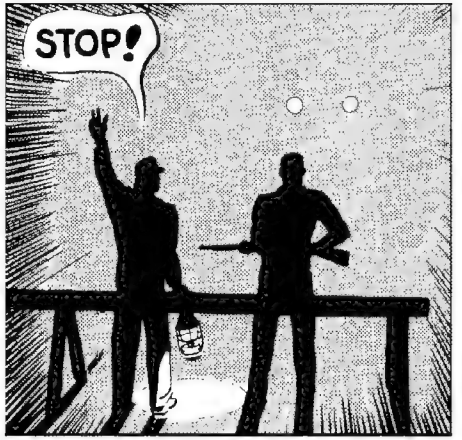
NEXT LEFT. IT'S TWO HUNDRED MILES TO THE CAPITAL! EVERY ROAD WILL BE GUARDED! THE HILLS WILL BE FILLED WITH MILITIA--YOU'VE ONE CHANCE IN A MILLION!

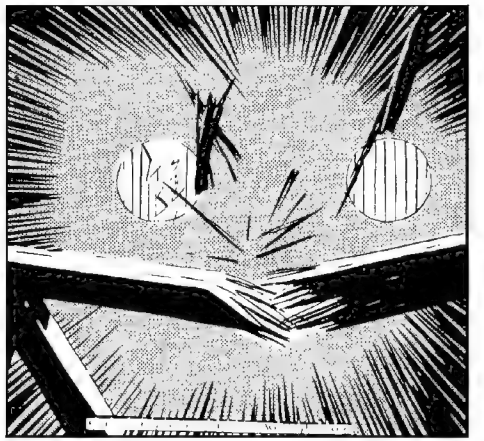
ONE'S ALL I NEED!
THE MOUNTAIN PASSES WILL BE BLOCKED. EVERY BRIDGE WILL BE GUARDED--

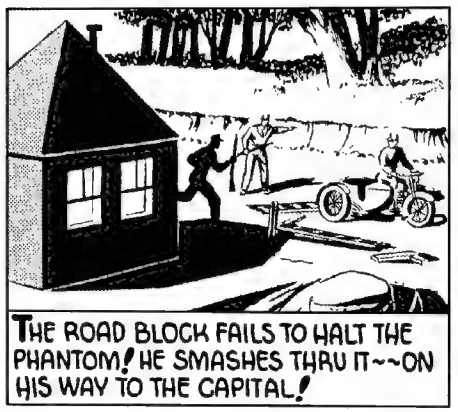
NEVER MIND THE TRAVELOGUE. GIVE ME DIRECTIONS.
NEXT RIGHT. WHAT A MAN!
CONT'D.


11-29
ALL ROADS FROM THE CITY ARE BLOCKED BY ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR! ALL GUARDS HAVE BEEN TOLD TO SHOOT TO KILL--

THE ROAD IS BLOCKED AHEAD!
HOLD TIGHT!
--THE PHANTOM, WHO HAS KIDNAPPED SUZIE AND SPEEDS TO THE CAPITAL TO TELL THE PRESIDENT THAT THE GOVERNOR IS SECRETLY A PIRATE LEADER!

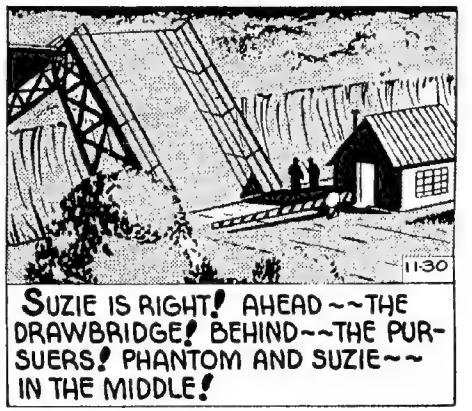

STOP!

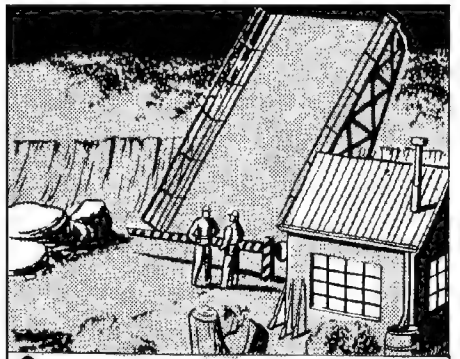



THE ROAD BLOCK FAILS TO HALT THE PHANTOM! HE SMASHES THRU IT--ON HIS WAY TO THE CAPITAL!

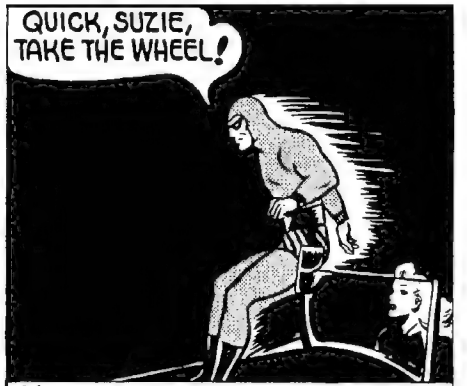
THIS IS THE GOVERNOR'S CAR. I KNEW HE'D HAVE THE BEST. THEY'LL NEVER CATCH US!
THEY'RE COMING AFTER US!

DON'T BE TOO SURE! THERE'S A DRAWBRIDGE AROUND THE BEND! I'LL BET ANYTHING THEY'VE RECEIVED ORDERS TO KEEP IT UP!

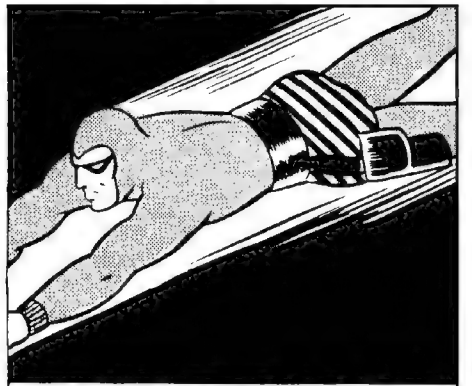

11-30
SUZIE IS RIGHT! AHEAD--THE DRAWBRIDGE! BEHIND--THE PURSUERS! PHANTOM AND SUZIE-- IN THE MIDDLE!



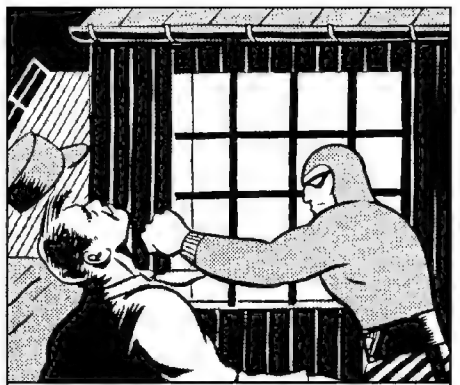
AS THE PHANTOM NEARS THE DRAWBRIDGE, HE SUDDENLY JAMS ON THE BRAKES!



HE'S OVER THE WINDSHIELD IN A FLASH ~~

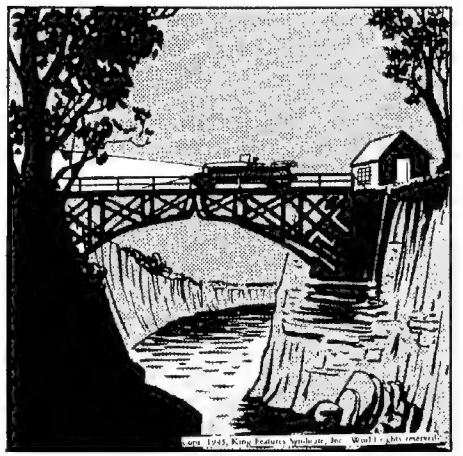


~~AND DIVES AT THE SURPRISED BRIDGE GUARDS!



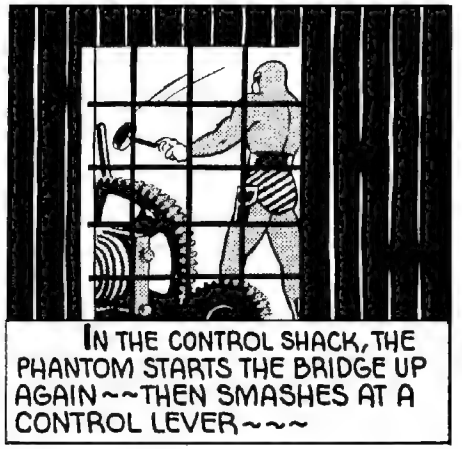
FIGHT AT THE BRIDGE! THE PHANTOM HANDLES THE TWO GUARDS SWIFTLY~~

HE RUSHES INTO THE CONTROL SHACK AND LOWERS THE DRAWBRIDGE ~~



AT THAT MOMENT, THE PURSUING MOTORCYCLE PATROL SPEEDS AROUND THE BEND. CAN THE PHANTOM CROSS THE BRIDGE IN TIME?

THE PATROL WILL BE THERE IN A MOMENT! HE CAN'T GET AWAY!
AS SUZIE WAITS AT THE OTHER SIDE OF THE BRIDGE~~

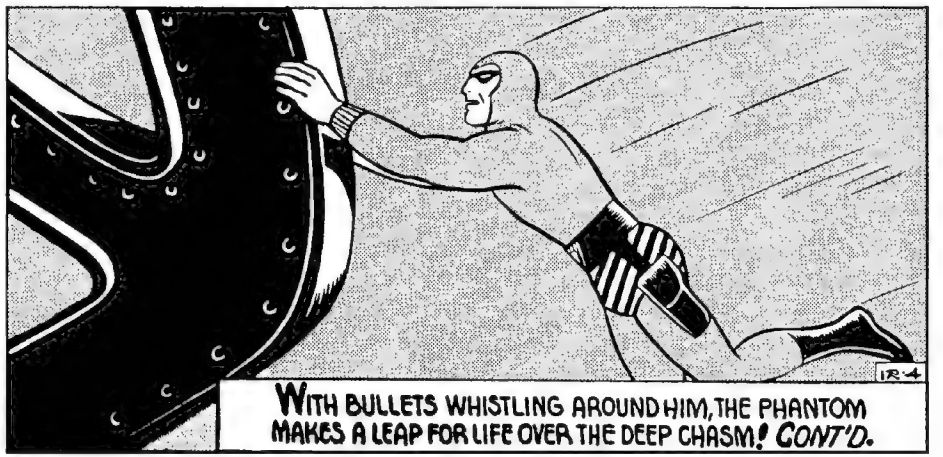

IN THE CONTROL SHACK, THE PHANTOM STARTS THE BRIDGE UP AGAIN~~THEN SMASHES AT A CONTROL LEVER~~~

THE PATROL REACHES THE BRIDGE AND HURRIES OFF ITS VEHICLES~~

WITH THE GUARDS BEHIND HIM, THE PHANTOM DASHES UP THE RISING BRIDGE!

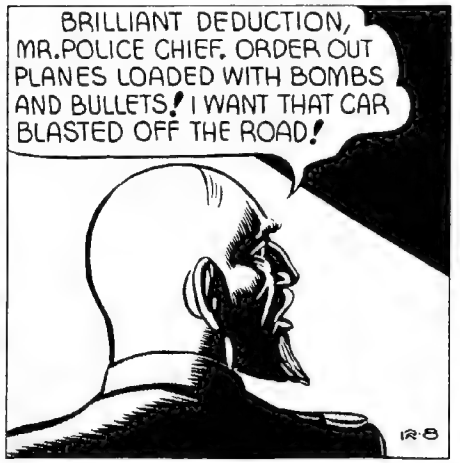
THE PHANTOM CHARGES UP THE DRAWBRIDGE THAT SLOWLY OPENS.

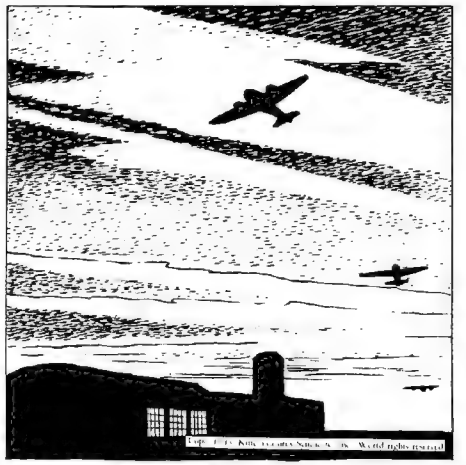
BEHIND HIM, THE GUARDS FIRE AT THE FLEEING FIGURE~~

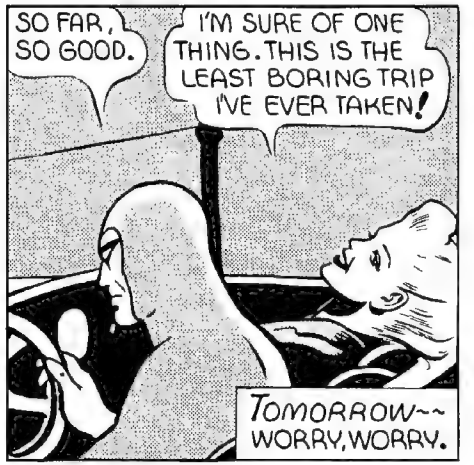

WITH BULLETS WHISTLING AROUND HIM, THE PHANTOM MAKES A LEAP FOR LIFE OVER THE DEEP CHASM! CONT'D.

THE GUARDS WATCH IN AMAZEMENT, AS THE PHANTOM CLEARS THE DRAWBRIDGE GAP OVER THE DEEP CHASM ~~
ON THE OTHER SIDE, HE SLIDES DOWN THE STEEP INCLINE ~~
I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D MAKE IT!
HAD TO.
WON'T THEY FOLLOW US?
I JAMMED THE LEVER. IT'LL TAKE A GOOD MECHANIC A COUPLE OF HOURS TO GET THAT BRIDGE DOWN.
12-6
GET THE BRIDGE DOWN, SO WE CAN FOLLOW THEM.
CAN'T. THE GEAR'S BROKEN!
CALLING GOVERNOR'S PALACE. HIGHWAY SIXTEEN PATROL REPORTING.
THEY FOUND HIM! HE BROKE THRU A ROAD BLOCK~JAMMED THE DRAWBRIDGE AFTER SLUGGING THE BRIDGE GUARDS ~AND ESCAPED!
IS THIS ONE MAN THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT~~OR A REGIMENT?

HE'S TAKING HIGHWAY 16 TO THE CAPITAL~~ IN MY CAR!
HE MAY TURN OFF ONTO A SIDE ROAD, YOUR EXCELLENCY!

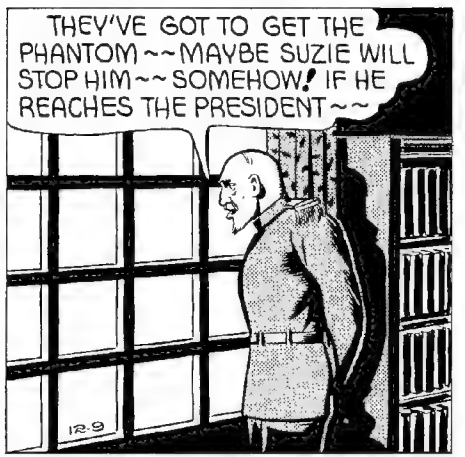

BRILLIANT DEDUCTION, MR. POLICE CHIEF. ORDER OUT PLANES LOADED WITH BOMBS AND BULLETS! I WANT THAT CAR BLASTED OFF THE ROAD!
12-8

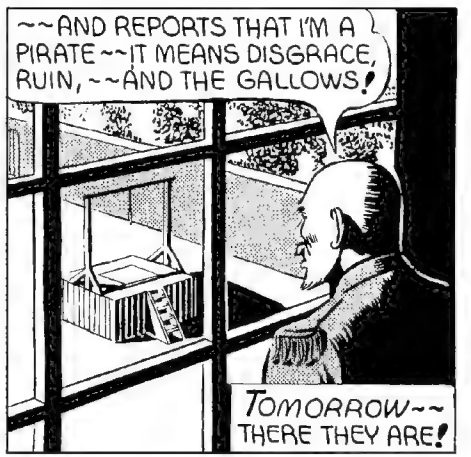


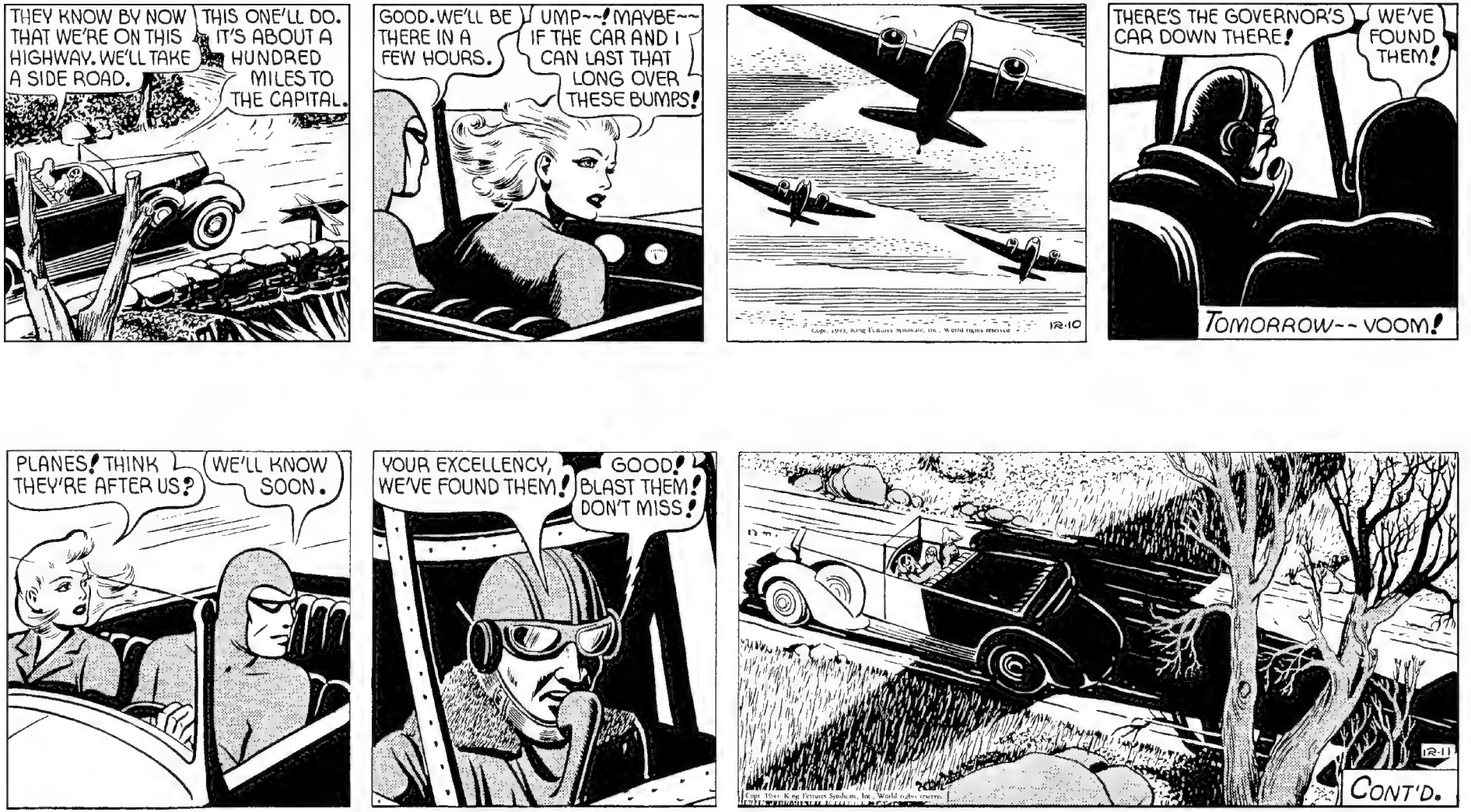

SO FAR, SO GOOD.
I'M SURE OF ONE THING. THIS IS THE LEAST BORING TRIP I'VE EVER TAKEN!
TOMORROW~~ WORRY, WORRY.

FOUND THEM YET?
THE GOVERNOR CONTACTS HIS FLYING PILOTS.

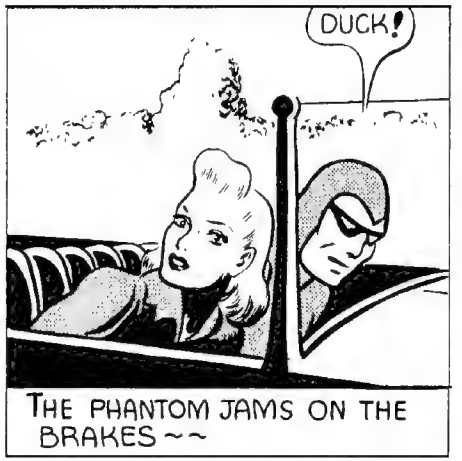
NO SIGN OF THEM YET~~ YOUR EXCELLENCY. WE'RE FLYING OVER EVERY ROAD!


THEY'VE GOT TO GET THE PHANTOM~~ MAYBE SUZIE WILL STOP HIM~~ SOMEHOW! IF HE REACHES THE PRESIDENT~~
12-9


~~AND REPORTS THAT I'M A PIRATE~~ IT MEANS DISGRACE, RUIN, ~~AND THE GALLOWS!
TOMORROW~~ THERE THEY ARE!


THEY KNOW BY NOW THAT WE'RE ON THIS HIGHWAY. WE'LL TAKE A SIDE ROAD.
THIS ONE'LL DO. IT'S ABOUT A HUNDRED MILES TO THE CAPITAL.
GOOD. WE'LL BE THERE IN A FEW HOURS.
UMP--! MAYBE-- IF THE CAR AND I CAN LAST THAT LONG OVER THESE BUMPS!
12-10
THERE'S THE GOVERNOR'S CAR DOWN THERE!
WE'VE FOUND THEM!
TOMORROW-- VOOM!
PLANES! THINK THEY'RE AFTER US?
WE'LL KNOW SOON.
YOUR EXCELLENCY, WE'VE FOUND THEM!
GOOD! BLAST THEM! DON'T MISS!
12-11
CONT'D.

THE PLANES~~ARE DROPPING~~ BOMBS! ON US!

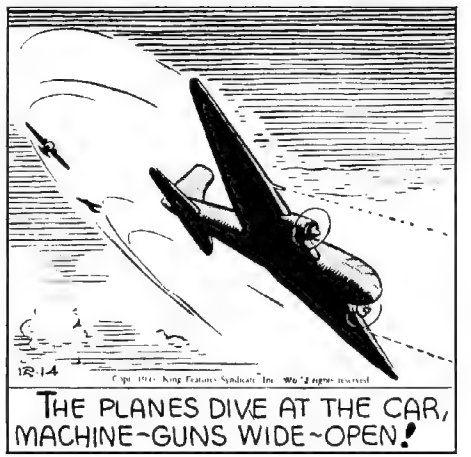

DUCK!
THE PHANTOM JAMS ON THE BRAKES~~

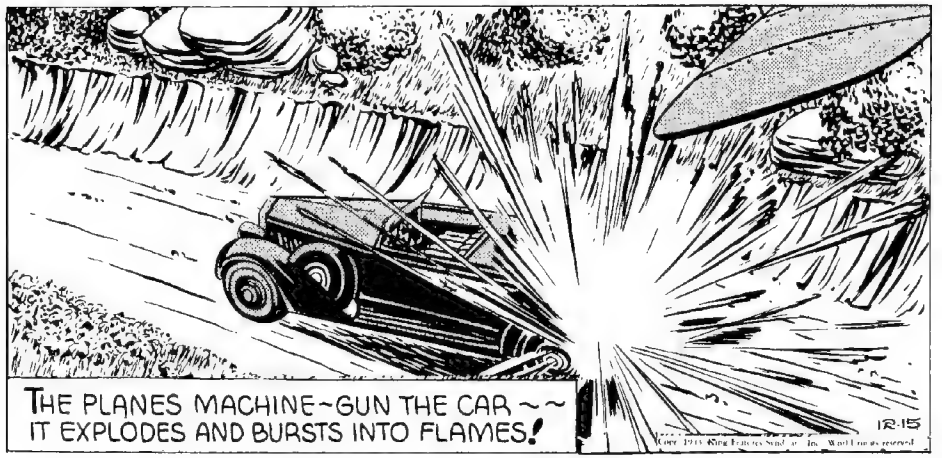
12-13
THE NEAREST BOMB EXPLODES ABOUT FIFTY FEET AHEAD OF THE CAR! A NEAR MISS! THE PLANES WHEEL AROUND FOR ANOTHER TRY~~

AS THE PLANES VEER ABOUT FOR ANOTHER GO AT THE STALLED CAR BELOW THEM~~

OUT WE GO! THIS CAR IS TOO HOT!

QUICK, INTO THIS DITCH!


12-14
THE PLANES DIVE AT THE CAR, MACHINE~GUNS WIDE~OPEN!

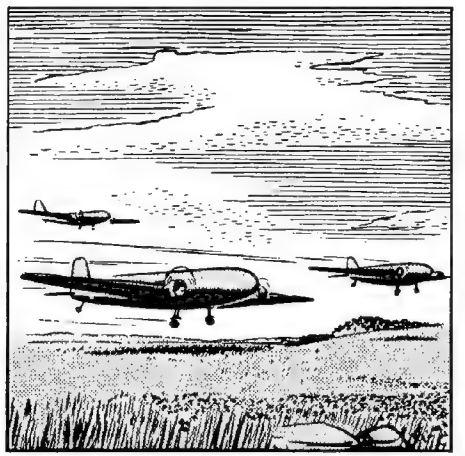

THE PLANES MACHINE-GUN THE CAR ~~ IT EXPLODES AND BURSTS INTO FLAMES!
12-15

GEE ~~AND WE WERE IN IT FIVE SECONDS AGO!
THE GOVERNOR CERTAINLY MADE A MESS OF HIS OWN CAR! WASTING THE TAXPAYERS' MONEY.

WHERE ~~ WHERE NOW?
THE WOODS! THOSE PLANES ARE LANDING!

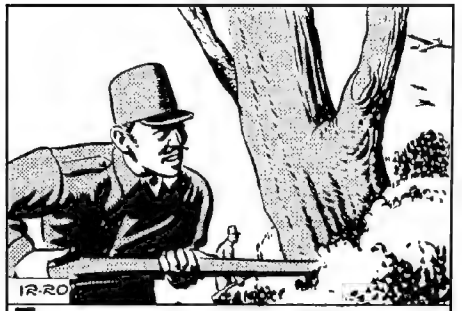
WE GOT THEM, YOUR EXCELLENCY! THE CAR EXPLODED AND IS BURNING!
12-16

THEY GOT THEM! BLEW UP THE CAR!
WE'RE LANDING NEAR THE CAR NOW, YOUR EXCELLENCY. WILL REPORT FURTHER.



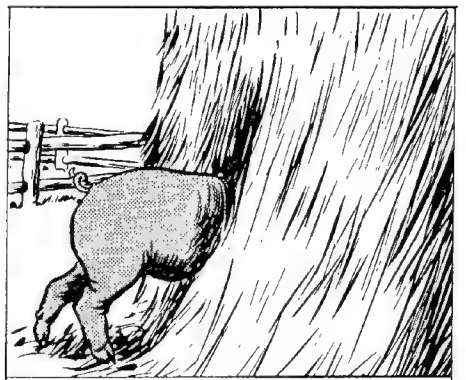
WE SURE DID A JOB ON THAT CAR! NOTICE SOMETHING FUNNY?
YEAH. THERE'S NOBODY IN IT!

THIS CALLS FOR A CELEBRATION! NOT EVEN THE PHANTOM COULD SURVIVE BOMBS AND MACHINE-GUNS!
POOR SUZIE~~
ALL PART OF THE GAME, MRS. J. HE KIDNAPPED HER~ WE HAD TO NAIL HIM BEFORE HE REACHED THE CAPITAL~~ WELL~LET'S DRINK~BE GAY~!
PARDON, SIRE. RADIO CALLING~
CHIEF PILOT CALLING, SIR. WE'VE INSPECTED THE BURNING CAR. THERE'S NO ONE IN IT!
NO~~ONE~~ IN~~IT~~
DUNDERHEADS! IDIOTS! FOOLS! I WANT EVERY SOLDIER WE HAVE PUT INTO THAT DISTRICT AT ONCE!
ONLY MILITARY VEHICLES ARE TO BE ALLOWED ON ALL ROADS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE! PUT EVERY PLANE WE HAVE INTO THE AIR OVER THAT DISTRICT! KILL THE PHANTOM!
KILL THE PHANTOM
THINK THEY'RE STILL LOOKING FOR YOU?
I WOULDN'T BE A BIT SURPRISED.
CONT'D.

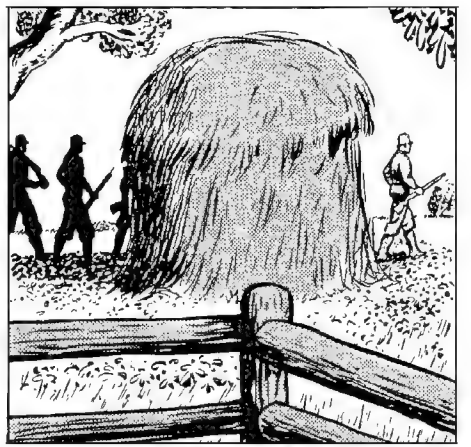


THE ENTIRE MILITARY STRENGTH OF THE GOVERNOR'S PROVINCE IS CONCENTRATED IN ONE SMALL COUNTY, WITH ORDERS TO **KILL THE PHANTOM.**

EVERY HUT IS SEARCHED~~

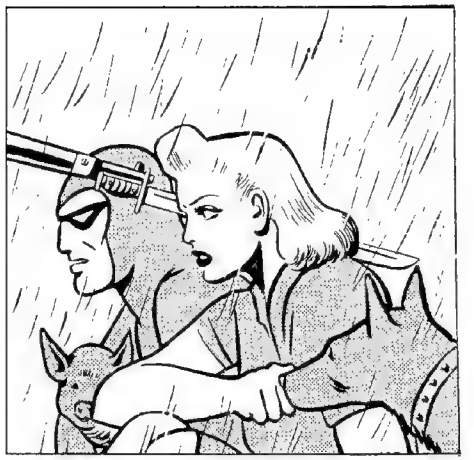


THE FRIGHTENED PIG DARTS INTO A LARGE HAYSTACK.

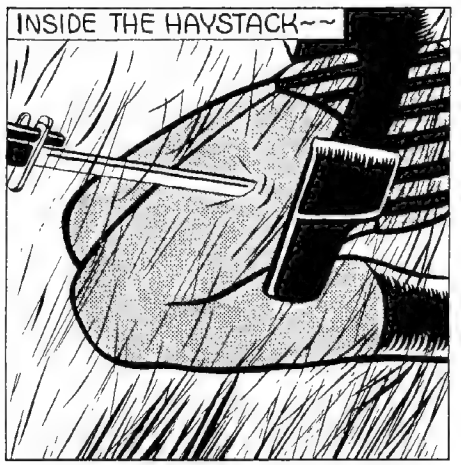


INSIDE THE HAYSTACK~~

POKE THAT HAYSTACK AND SEE IF ANYTHING IS IN IT.
YES SIR.



POKE IT AGAIN, TO MAKE SURE.


INSIDE THE HAYSTACK~~

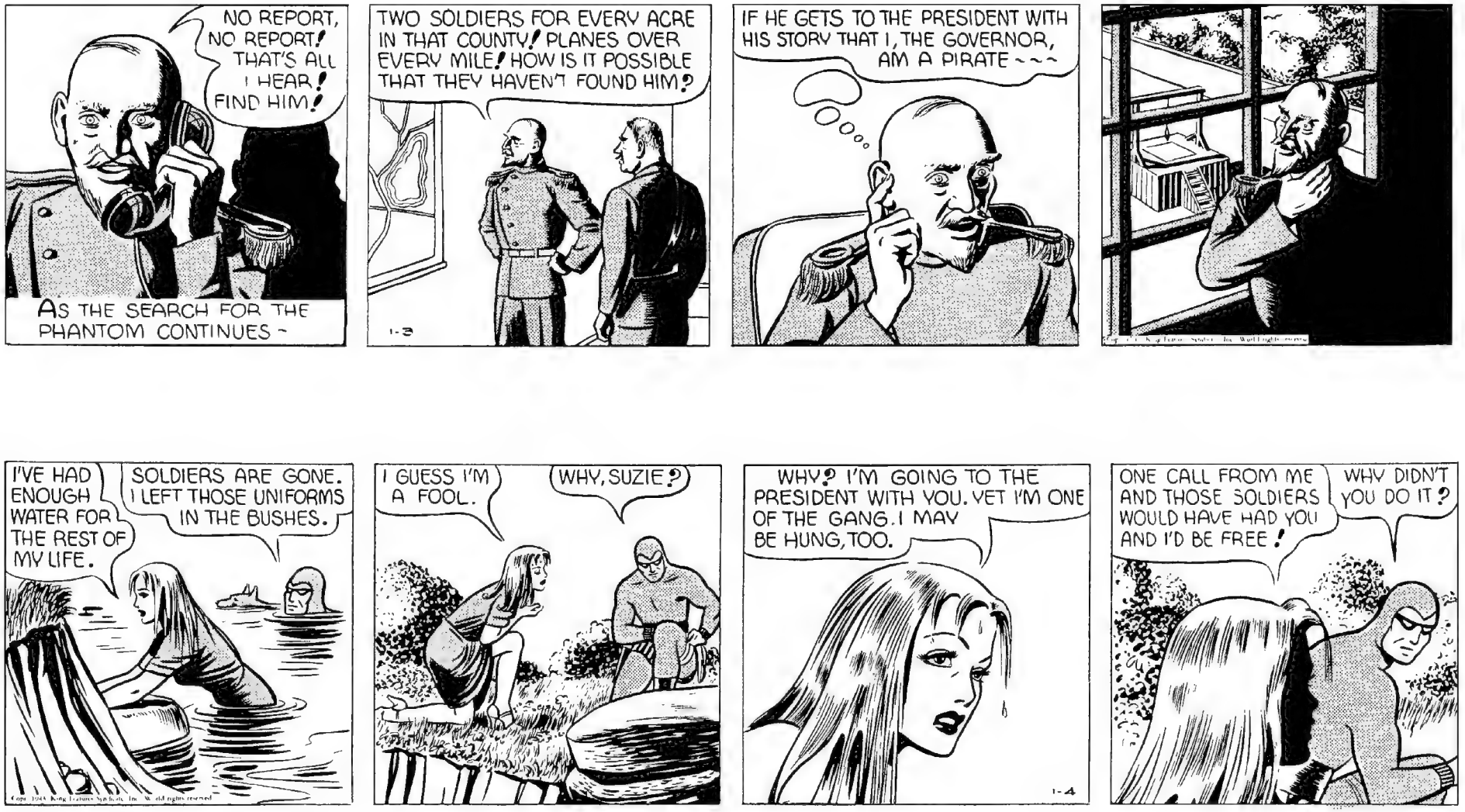
HEY~~I HIT SOMETHING! BLOOD~~~

SIR--I HIT SOMETHING IN THAT STACK. THERE'S BLOOD ON MY BAYONET!
WHAT!
COME OUT BY THE TIME I COUNT THREE--OR WE'LL FILL THAT STACK WITH LEAD! ONE--TWO---
IDIOT-IT WAS ONLY A PIG!
WELL, GEE, SIR-- HOW DID I KNOW--?
LUCKY WE HAD THAT PIG WITH US---
YOU'RE WOUNDED!
BAYONET JAB. I'LL HAVE TO GET TO SOME WATER AND WASH IT--
I DREW BLOOD WITH THIS BAYONET-BUT THAT PIG WASN'T BLEEDING! I'D BETTER HAVE ANOTHER LOOK---
CONT'D.

DOES YOUR LEG HURT MUCH?
NO, SUZIE. NOW IF WE CAN ONLY FIND SOME COVER BEFORE MORE SOLDIERS POP UP~~
HE'S HURT~~HE WON'T BE TOUGH TO CAPTURE--MAYBE I SHOULD GET SOME OTHER SOLDIERS~~
BUT IF I CAPTURE HIM SINGLE~HANDED~~ALIVE~~MAYBE I'LL GET A COMMISSION!
STOP! YOU'RE MY PRISONERS!
NO FUNNY BUSINESS~~DON'T REACH FOR THOSE GUNS~~I'LL TAKE CARE OF THEM~~
THE PHANTOM MOVES LIKE GREASED LIGHTNING~~
FOR THE REST OF HIS LIFE, THE SOLDIER WILL SWEAR HE WAS HIT WITH A SLEDGE HAMMER!
THAT WAS SMOOTH!
EVERY SOLDIER IS TAUGHT THAT TRICK. THIS ONE MUST HAVE SLEPT THRU HIS LESSON.
TOMORROW--A LITTLE ONE.

WE CAN USE THIS UNIFORM. THE COUNTRY~SIDE IS ALIVE WITH SOLDIERS. WE'LL TRAVEL EASIER IN UNIFORM.
HOW ABOUT YOUR WOUND?
I'LL TAKE CARE OF THAT LATER. FIRST, WE'LL HAVE TO FIND A UNIFORM FOR YOU.
WE'LL NEED ONE NEAR YOUR SIZE~~ A LITTLE SOLDIER~~
SOMEONE'S COMING~~
JUST THE RIGHT SIZE!
HI, HANDSOME.
HEY~~WHERE'D YOU COME FROM?
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR A HANDSOME SOLDIER BOY LIKE YOU TO COME ALONG. WHAT'S YOUR HURRY~~?
WELL~~I SHOULD KEEP ON THE MARCH ~~BUT~~
YOU WERE PRETTY GOOD.
POOH, MEN! THEY'RE ALL ALIKE.

WHAT A DEEP GASH! AND YOU DIDN'T LET OUT A PEEP WHEN THAT BAYONET HIT YOU!
COULDN'T
USE THIS FOR A BANDAGE.
THEN, SUDDENLY~~
"DEVIL"!
HEY!
12-31
BLUB~~WHY DIDN'T YOU WARN ME ~~BEFORE DRAGGING ME UNDER? I DIDN'T HEAR THOSE SOLDIERS.
I DID, LUCKILY.
WE'LL NEVER GET YOUR WOUND BANDAGED.
THE WATER'LL DO IT GOOD.
SOLDIERS ARE THICKER THAN FLEAS AROUND HERE~~BLUB~~
1-1
CONT'D.

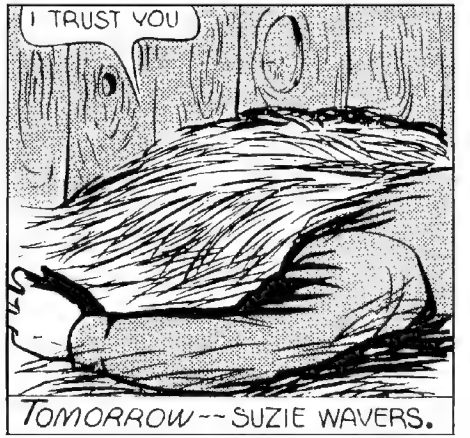

NO REPORT, NO REPORT! THAT'S ALL I HEAR! FIND HIM!
AS THE SEARCH FOR THE PHANTOM CONTINUES ~
TWO SOLDIERS FOR EVERY ACRE IN THAT COUNTY! PLANES OVER EVERY MILE! HOW IS IT POSSIBLE THAT THEY HAVEN'T FOUND HIM?
1-3
IF HE GETS TO THE PRESIDENT WITH HIS STORY THAT I, THE GOVERNOR, AM A PIRATE ~~~
I'VE HAD ENOUGH WATER FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE.
SOLDIERS ARE GONE. I LEFT THOSE UNIFORMS IN THE BUSHES.
I GUESS I'M A FOOL.
WHY, SUZIE?
WHY? I'M GOING TO THE PRESIDENT WITH YOU. YET I'M ONE OF THE GANG. I MAY BE HUNG, TOO.
1-4
ONE CALL FROM ME AND THOSE SOLDIERS WOULD HAVE HAD YOU AND I'D BE FREE!
WHY DIDN'T YOU DO IT?

WHY DIDN'T YOU GIVE ME UP, SUZIE?
OH--MAYBE BECAUSE OF THOSE POOR SEAMEN WE FORCED TO ABANDON SHIP.
DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE DEVELOPING A CONSCIENCE!
I DON'T KNOW. MAYBE I'M IN LOVE.
WHO WITH?
WITH WHOM? WHY--NEVER MIND. THAT'S MY SECRET.
HOW DO I LOOK?
A PERFECT SOLDIER--A LITTLE UNDERSIZED, MAYBE.
YOU WON'T GET FAR WITH THAT MASK SHOWING.
WE'LL SEE. OOP--SOME SOLDIERS ARE COMING!
HEY! SEEN ANYTHING OF THAT MASKED GUY AND THE GIRL?
NOPE, NOT YET.

SO FAR, SO GOOD LET'S HIDE IN THIS BARN UNTIL DARK.
THERE ARE SOLDIERS BEHIND EVERY TREE.

I HAVEN'T SLEPT FOR THREE DAYS. DO YOU MIND WATCHING, SUZIE, WHILE I TAKE A NAP?

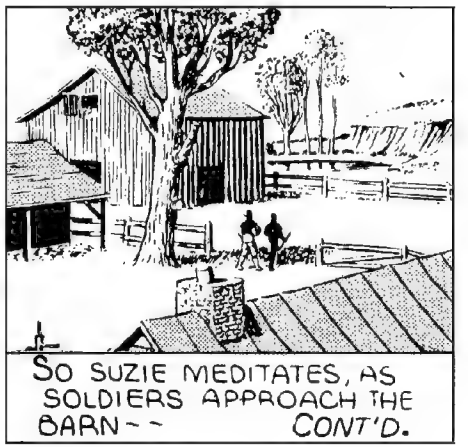
CAN YOU TRUST ME? MAYBE I'LL CHANGE MY MIND~~AND TURN YOU IN.
1-7


I TRUST YOU
TOMORROW~~SUZIE WAVERS.

WHY DIDN'T I GIVE HIM UP? I'VE BEEN TOUGH ALL MY LIFE~~I'M GETTING SOFT~~~
AS THE PHANTOM SLEEPS~~

ALL I HAVE TO DO IS SNEAK OUT~~ FIND SOME SOLDIERS~~I'D BE SAFE ~~THE GOVERNOR WOULD GIVE ME A MEDAL~~~

I DON'T WANT TO BE HUNG~~ WHO WOULD? I'M TOO YOUNG TO DIE. I LIKE MY NECK THE WAY IT IS.
1-8


SO SUZIE MEDITATES, AS SOLDIERS APPROACH THE BARN~~
CONT'D.

BETTER HAVE A LOOK IN THAT BARN.
YEAH, THE MASKED MAN MAY BE IN THERE.
1-10

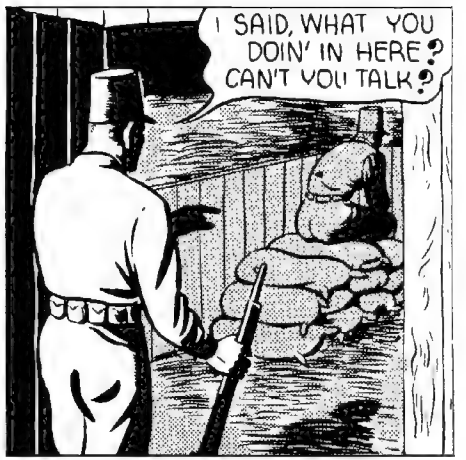
SHOULD I GIVE HIM UP? I'D BE FREE ~~NOBODY WOULD EVER LEARN I'M A PIRATE ~~ I WON'T HANG ~~

SOMEONE OUTSIDE. BETTER PUT ON MY HAT ~~

ANYBODY IN THERE?

HEY, THERE'S A SOLDIER IN HERE.

SOLDIERS! THIS IS MY CHANCE~~SHALL I GIVE HIM UP?
1-11


I SAID, WHAT YOU DOIN' IN HERE? CAN'T YOU TALK?

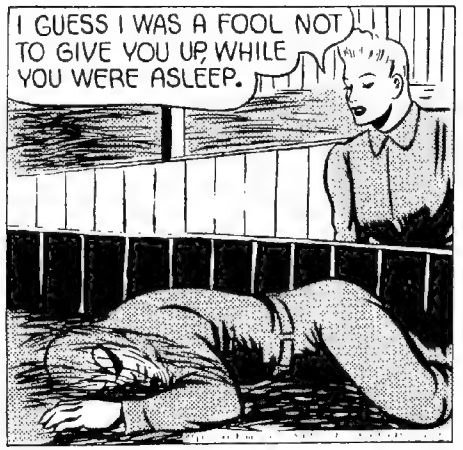
THE PHANTOM, AWAKE, LISTENS, HIS HAND ON HIS GUN! WHAT WILL SUZIE DO?

WHAT YOU DOIN' IN HERE, SOLDIER?
FEET HURT.
SUZIE TALKS IN AS LOW A VOICE AS POSSIBLE ~~

WHO'S THAT GUY?

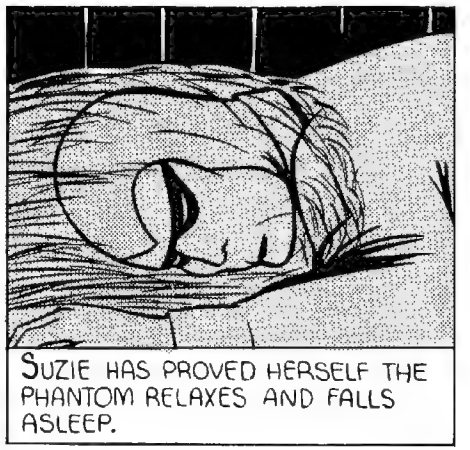
MY BUDDY. TAKING A NAP.
BETTER NOT LET AN OFFICER FIND YOU BIRDS GOLD-BRICKING IN HERE.

1-12


I GUESS I WAS A FOOL NOT TO GIVE YOU UP, WHILE YOU WERE ASLEEP.

I MAY NOT HAVE ANOTHER CHANCE ~~ YOU'LL GET TO THE PRESIDENT~~ I MAY BE HUNG~~

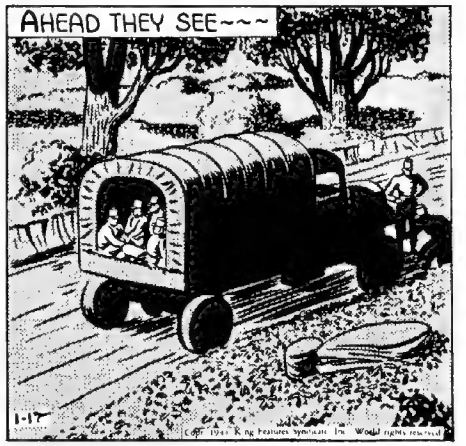
BUT, OH, DARLING ~~ I JUST COULDN'T DO IT.
1-13


SUZIE HAS PROVED HERSELF THE PHANTOM RELAXES AND FALLS ASLEEP.

WELL--THAT WAS A GOOD NAP. HOW LONG WAS I ASLEEP?
THREE HOURS. IT'S DARK OUTSIDE NOW.
ANYTHING HAPPEN WHILE I WAS ASLEEP? ANY EXCITEMENT?
NOT A THING.
1-14
THERE ARE SOLDIERS ALL AROUND HERE. WE WERE LUCKY.
YES, WE WERE.
TOMORROW-- LAST CHANCE.
THERE MUST BE A COUPLE OF REGIMENTS OUTSIDE --ALL OVER THE PLACE.
THEY'RE TRYING HARD TO GET YOU.
1-15
FROM HERE ON, IT'S GOING TO GET TOUGHER. SUZIE, IF YOU WANT TO LEAVE ME, YOU CAN.
I'LL STICK WITH YOU.
I WANT TO BE HONEST WITH YOU. IF I REACH THE PRESIDENT--YOU'LL BE INCLUDED WITH THE REST OF THE PIRATE GANG--
I SAID I'LL STICK
CONT'D.

HOW MUCH FARTHER TO THE CAPITAL, SUZIE?
ABOUT FIFTY MILES. WE'LL HAVE TO WALK. NOT A CAR HAS PASSED US.

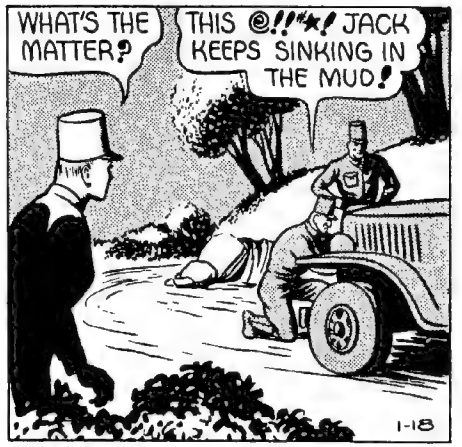
NOTHING BUT MILITARY VEHICLES~~ LOOKING FOR US! EVERYTHING ELSE HAS BEEN ORDERED OFF THE ROAD.


AHEAD THEY SEE~~~
1-17

THERE'S OUR TRANSPORTATION!
IT'S FULL OF SOLDIERS! WE CAN'T PASS AS SOLDIERS, AT CLOSE RANGE!

HURRY UP, YOU GUYS!
HOLD YOUR HORSES!

NOW YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO, SUZIE. DON'T LET THEM GET TOO CLOSE A LOOK AT YOU~~AND KEEP YOUR VOICE DEEP.

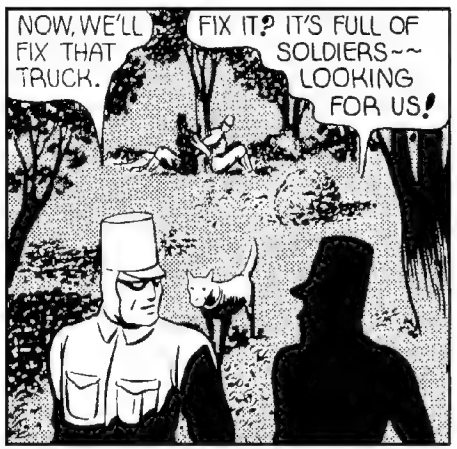

WHAT'S THE MATTER?
THIS @!!*x! JACK KEEPS SINKING IN THE MUD!
1-18

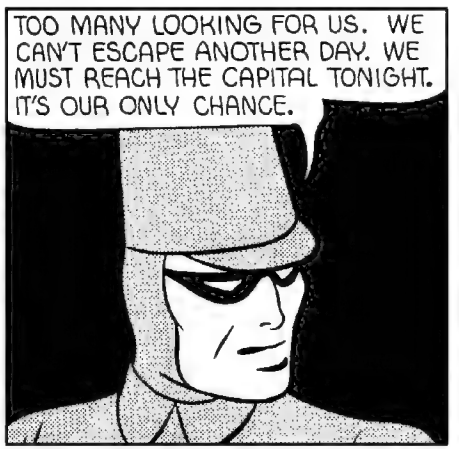
I KNOW WHERE THERE'S A HEAVY BOARD.
LEAD THE WAY.

HEY, WHERE IS THIS BOARD?
JUST AHEAD.

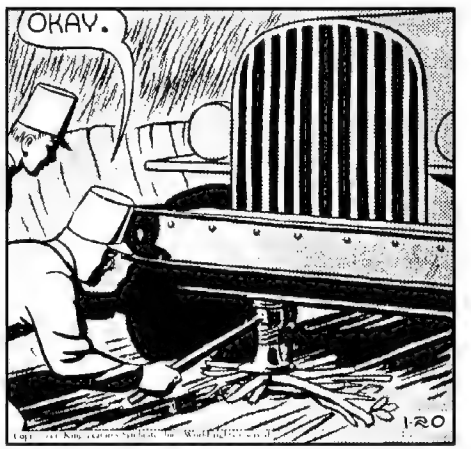
COMPANY, HALT. OKAY, SUZIE, TIE THEM UP!
HEY~~WHAT IS THIS?

WHY~~YOU'RE THE TWO EVERYBODY'S LOOKING FOR!
RIGHT. YOU'RE JUST DOING YOUR JOB, AND I DON'T WANT TO HURT YOU. SO DON'T RAISE A FUSS.


NOW, WE'LL FIX THAT TRUCK.
FIX IT? IT'S FULL OF SOLDIERS~~ LOOKING FOR US!

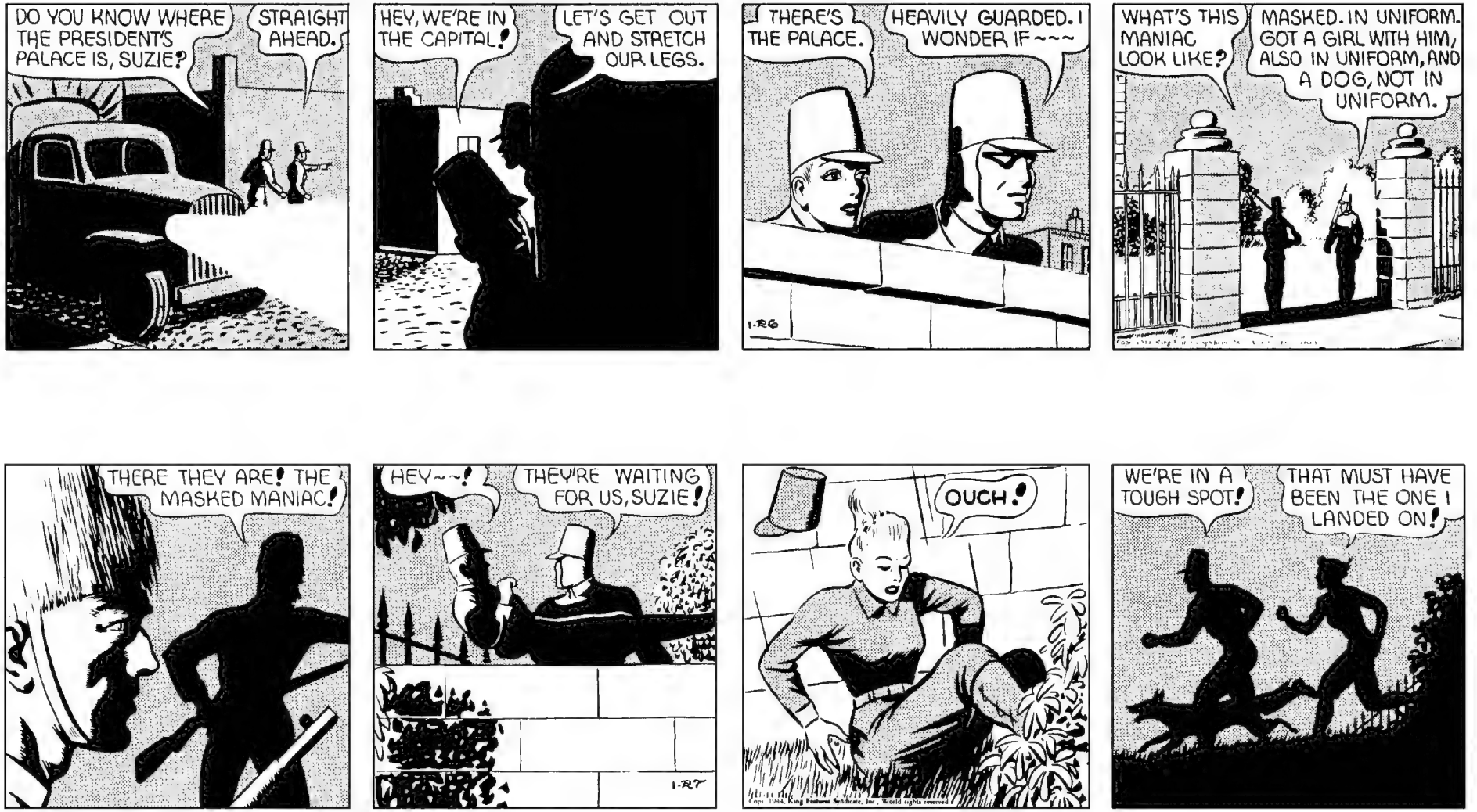

TOO MANY LOOKING FOR US. WE CAN'T ESCAPE ANOTHER DAY. WE MUST REACH THE CAPITAL TONIGHT. IT'S OUR ONLY CHANCE.

COME ON, YOU GUYS! HURRY UP! IT'S COLD SITTIN' HERE!


OKAY.

OKAY. ALL FIXED.
WHAT NOW?
OFF WE GO~~ TO THE CAPITAL~~
WOW~~
HURRAH! THE MOTOR'S STARTED.
THOUGHT I'D FREEZE SITTING HERE!
THUS THE PHANTOM COMMANDEERS A TRUCKFUL OF SOLDIERS WHO ARE LOOKING FOR HIM?
YOU FELLOWS PLAYING HIDE AND SEEK?
BLUB~BLUB~~
IT WAS THE MASKED MAN~~AND THE GIRL~~ WITH THE DOG!
THEY SWIPED OUR TRUCK!
IN THE GOVERNOR'S PALACE.
REST ASSURED, YOUR EXCELLENCY, WE WILL HAVE THE PHANTOM BY DAWN! HE CAN'T GET TO THE CAPITAL!
©★!!%! HE'S HIJACKED A TRUCKFUL OF MY SOLDIERS AND IS HEADED FOR THE CAPITAL!
NEXT WEEK: THE PRESIDENT.

IN A DARING MOVE, THE PHANTOM AND SUZIE TAKE OVER A TRUCKFUL OF SOLDIERS AND SPEED TO THE CAPITAL!
THERE'S NO WAY OF FINDING THAT MILITARY TRUCK. THERE ARE HUNDREDS THAT LOOK IDENTICAL! I'LL PHONE THE PRESIDENT ~~
IN THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE ~
IF HE GETS TO THE PRESIDENT~~ WE'LL ALL HANG ~~AS PIRATES.
YES, MR. PRESIDENT. THERE'S A MASKED MANIAC, DISGUISED AS A SOLDIER, ON HIS WAY IN AN ATTEMPT TO ASSASSINATE YOU. HAVE YOUR MEN ON GUARD! NOT AT ALL~~~SIR~~
I CAN'T STAND THIS SUSPENSE. I'M GOING TO FLY TO THE CAPITAL, MYSELF.
GOOD IDEA, GOVERNOR. CLEVER OF YOU TO "WARN" THE PRESIDENT!
HAVE NO FEAR, SIRE. WE'VE POSTED GUARDS TO BE ON THE LOOK-OUT FOR THE MASKED MANIAC.
AT THE PRESIDENT'S PALACE.
THE GUARD WAITS~~FOR THE MASKED "MANIAC" IN SOLDIER COSTUME ~~
THIS IS THE CAPITAL!
AT LAST! NOW TO SEE THE PRESIDENT!

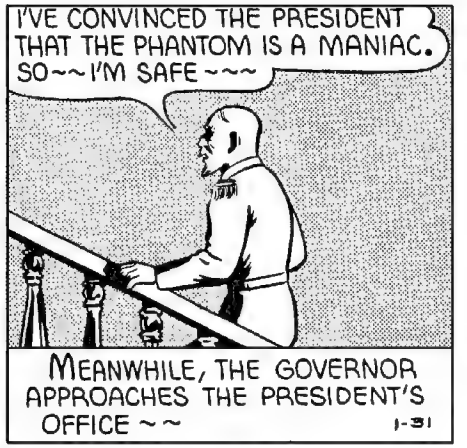

DO YOU KNOW WHERE THE PRESIDENT'S PALACE IS, SUZIE?
STRAIGHT AHEAD.
HEY, WE'RE IN THE CAPITAL!
LET'S GET OUT AND STRETCH OUR LEGS.
THERE'S THE PALACE.
HEAVILY GUARDED. I WONDER IF ~~~
1-26
WHAT'S THIS MANIAC LOOK LIKE?
MASKED. IN UNIFORM. GOT A GIRL WITH HIM, ALSO IN UNIFORM, AND A DOG, NOT IN UNIFORM.
THERE THEY ARE! THE MASKED MANIAC!
HEY~~!
THEY'RE WAITING FOR US, SUZIE!
1-27
OUCH!
WE'RE IN A TOUGH SPOT!
THAT MUST HAVE BEEN THE ONE I LANDED ON!

THE PRESIDENTIAL GUARDS SEARCH THE PALACE GROUNDS~~
THE ASSASSIN IS ON THE GROUNDS, SIRE, BUT DON'T BE ALARMED. WE'LL GET HIM!
THE PRESIDENT.
HANG ON.
I AM!
MEANWHILE, THE PHANTOM SHEDS THE UNIFORM, AND~
IS THAT THE PREXY?
IT IS. AND I'M GOING TO TAKE OFF THIS UNIFORM, AND LOOK PRESENTABLE. DON'T WORRY~~MY DRESS IS UNDERNEATH.
STRANGE, THE GOVERNOR WARNING ME THAT A "MANIAC" WAS COMING TO KILL ME. HOW WOULD THE GOVERNOR KNOW?
DON'T BE ALARMED, MR. PRESIDENT. I'VE COME TO TELL YOU THAT THE GOVERNOR IS A PIRATE.
AT THAT MOMENT, THE GOVERNOR REACHES THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE!
MR. GOVERNOR! WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE~~~ AT THIS HOUR?
I WANT TO SEE THE PRESIDENT, AT ONCE!
NEXT WEEK: THE PAY-OFF!

MR. PRESIDENT, I HAVEN'T COME HERE TO ASSASSINATE YOU.
WHO ARE YOU?

I'VE COME TO TELL YOU THAT YOUR GOVERNOR IS HEAD OF A PIRATE GANG THAT HAS HIJACKED A WHOLE FLEET.

THIS IS FANTASTIC! WHAT PROOF HAVE YOU?
I WAS~~ ONE OF THE GANG.


I'VE CONVINCED THE PRESIDENT THAT THE PHANTOM IS A MANIAC. SO~~ I'M SAFE ~~~
MEANWHILE, THE GOVERNOR APPROACHES THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE ~~
1-31

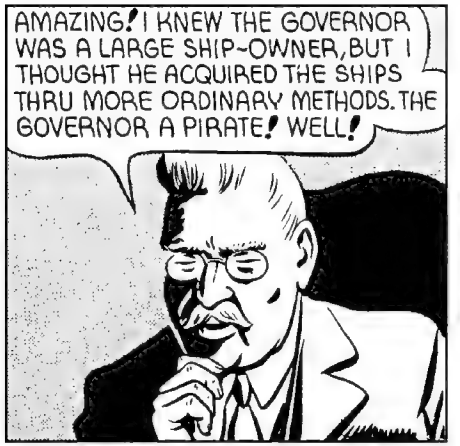
IF YOU ARE NOT AN ASSASSIN, WHY ARE YOU ARMED?
THE GOVERNOR TRIED TO PREVENT ME FROM SEEING YOU~~~ I HAD TO FIGHT TO GET THIS FAR~~~

HOWEVER, I DON'T NEED THEM HERE~ SO IF IT'LL MAKE YOU FEEL BETTER, I'LL PUT THEM DOWN, MR. PRESIDENT.

WHAT? THE GOVERNOR, TO SEE ME?
ASK HIM TO WAIT.

HIS EXCELLENCY WILL SEE YOU SHORTLY, MR. GOVERNOR. PLEASE HAVE A SEAT.

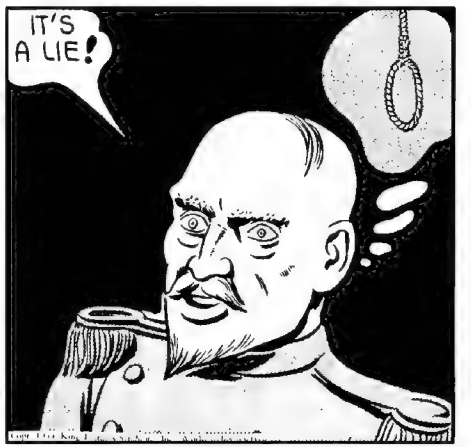
I WAS A PASSENGER ON THE S.S.HARVEY. IT WAS HIJACKED BY THE GOVERNOR'S GANG, REDESIGNED, AND BROUGHT TO PORT AS HIS OWN SHIP!
IT'S TRUE, MR. PRESIDENT. I WAS ONE OF THE GANG. WE TOOK THIRTEEN SHIPS IN ALL~~~~

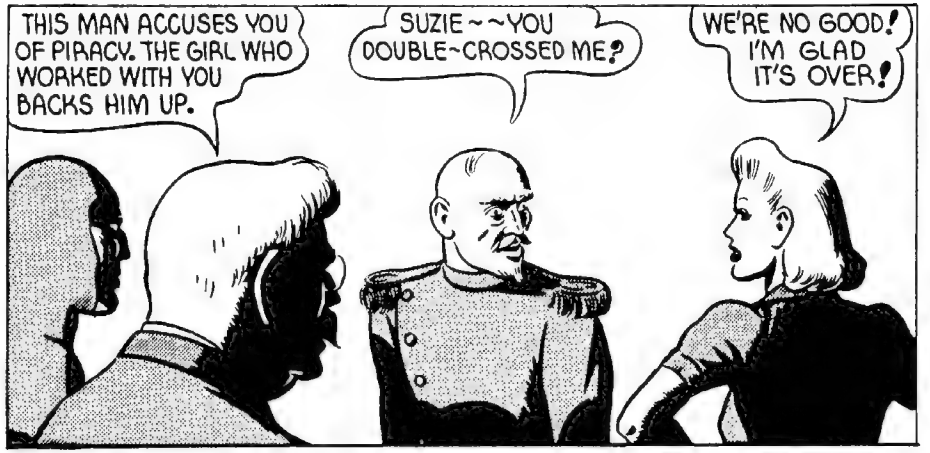

AMAZING! I KNEW THE GOVERNOR WAS A LARGE SHIP-OWNER, BUT I THOUGHT HE ACQUIRED THE SHIPS THRU MORE ORDINARY METHODS. THE GOVERNOR A PIRATE! WELL!

R-R

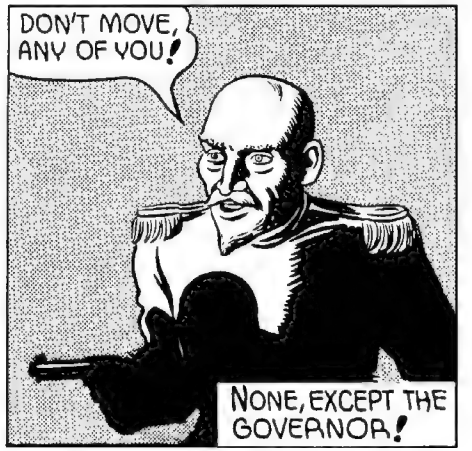
WELL~~ MR. GOVERNOR!
MR. PRESIDENT! I SEE YOU'VE DISARMED THE ASSASSIN! I'LL CALL THE GUARD!

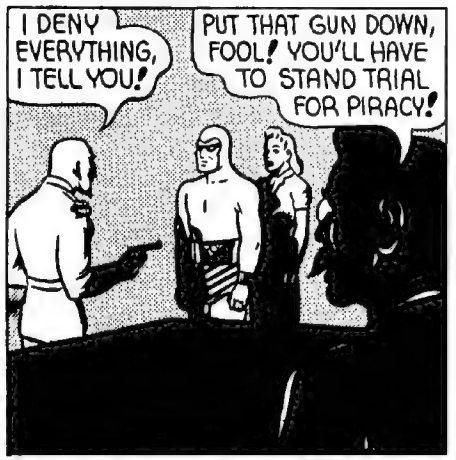
MR. GOVERNOR, THESE PEOPLE CHARGE YOU WITH BEING A PIRATE. WHAT HAVE YOU TO SAY?
R-3

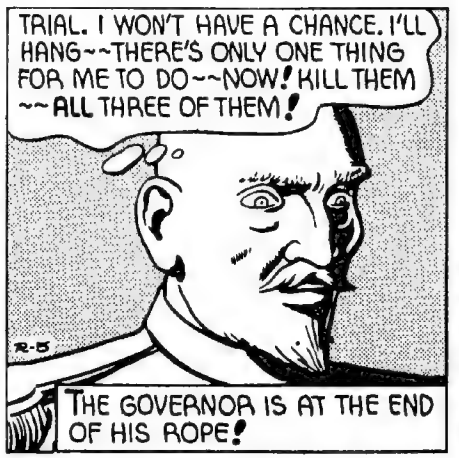

IT'S A LIE!

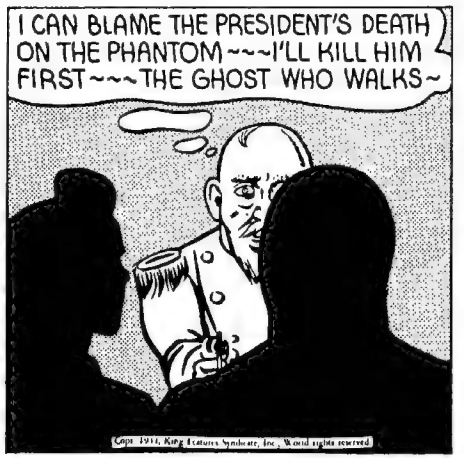

THIS MAN ACCUSES YOU OF PIRACY. THE GIRL WHO WORKED WITH YOU BACKS HIM UP.
SUZIE~~YOU DOUBLE~CROSSED ME?
WE'RE NO GOOD! I'M GLAD IT'S OVER!

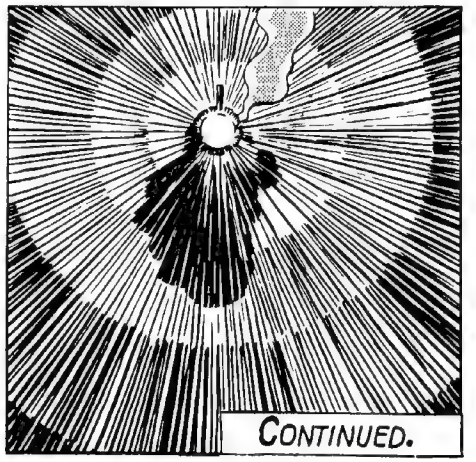
THE GOVERNOR SEES THE PHANTOM'S GUNS ON THE DESK~HE REALIZES NONE OF THEM ARE ARMED~~~


DON'T MOVE, ANY OF YOU!
NONE, EXCEPT THE GOVERNOR!


I DENY EVERYTHING, I TELL YOU!
PUT THAT GUN DOWN, FOOL! YOU'LL HAVE TO STAND TRIAL FOR PIRACY!


TRIAL. I WON'T HAVE A CHANCE. I'LL HANG~~THERE'S ONLY ONE THING FOR ME TO DO~~NOW! KILL THEM ~~ALL THREE OF THEM!
THE GOVERNOR IS AT THE END OF HIS ROPE!


I CAN BLAME THE PRESIDENT'S DEATH ON THE PHANTOM~~~I'LL KILL HIM FIRST~~~THE GHOST WHO WALKS~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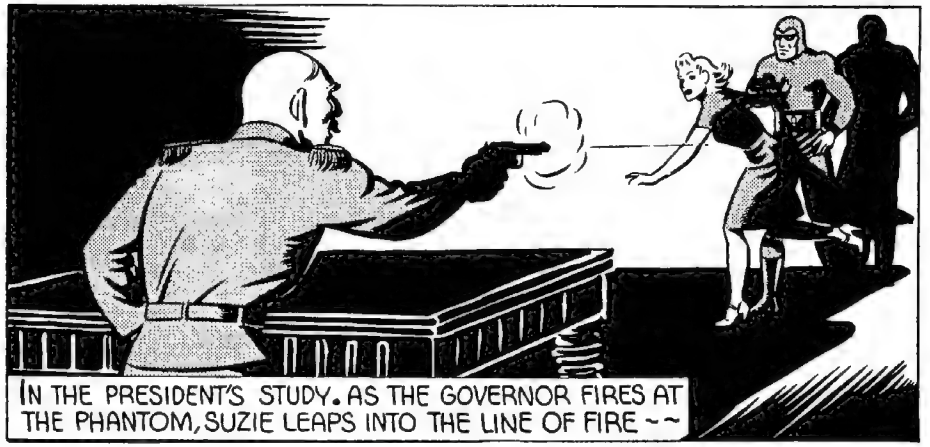
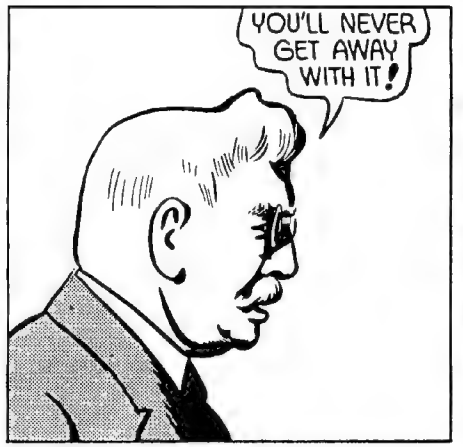
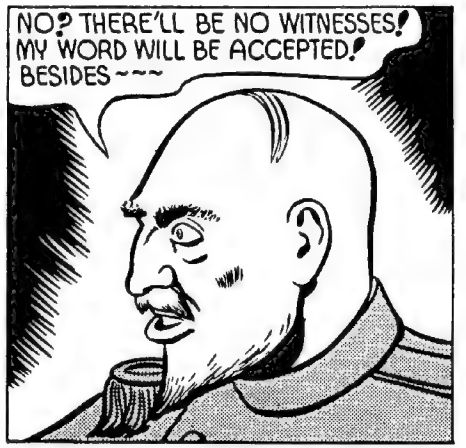

IN THE PRESIDENT'S STUDY. AS THE GOVERNOR FIRES AT THE PHANTOM, SUZIE LEAPS INTO THE LINE OF FIRE ~~

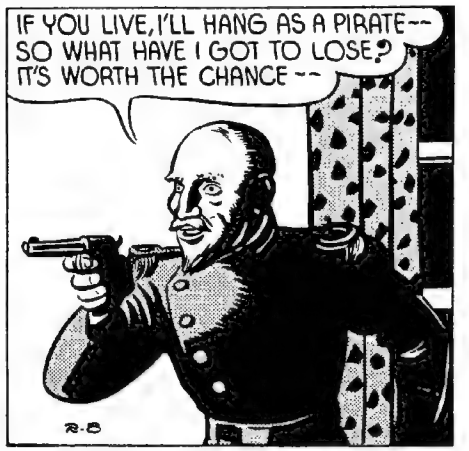
SUZIE!

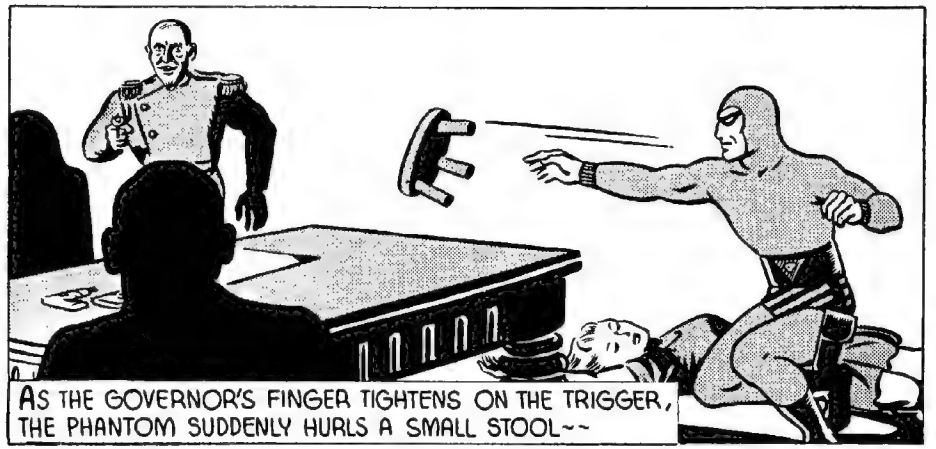
SHE GOT THE BULLET MEANT FOR YOU, BUT I'VE STILL GOT A BULLET FOR EACH OF YOU!

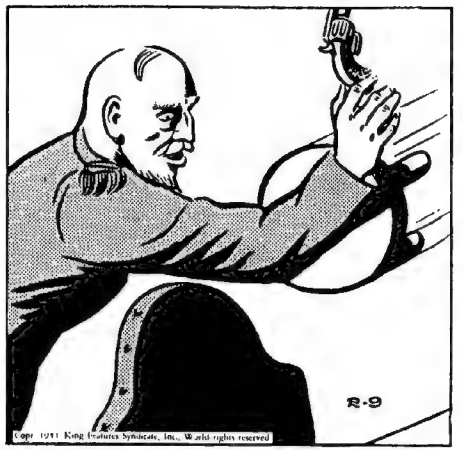
MADMAN! PUT DOWN YOUR GUN!
YOU'RE NEXT, MR. PRESIDENT! I'LL BLAME YOUR DEATH ON THE PHANTOM~~~

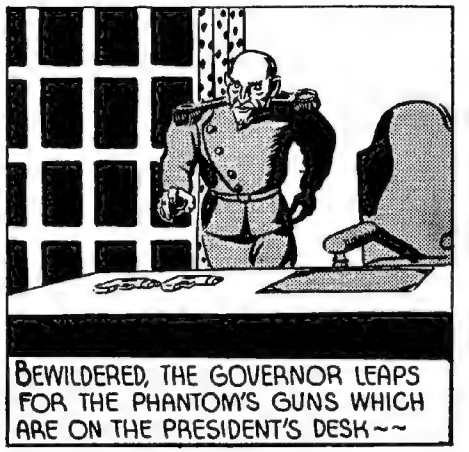

YOU'LL NEVER GET AWAY WITH IT!

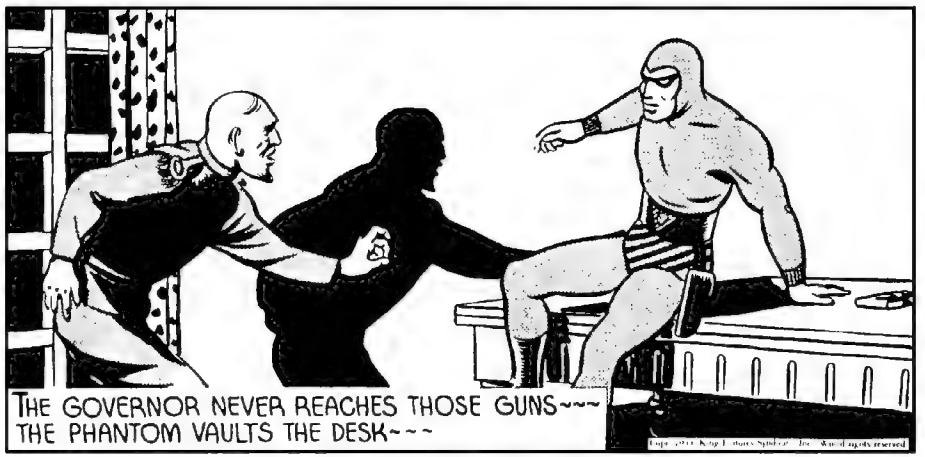

NO? THERE'LL BE NO WITNESSES! MY WORD WILL BE ACCEPTED! BESIDES~~~

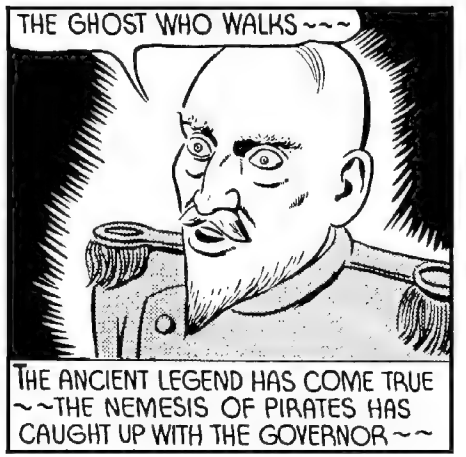

IF YOU LIVE, I'LL HANG AS A PIRATE~~ SO WHAT HAVE I GOT TO LOSE? IT'S WORTH THE CHANCE ~~

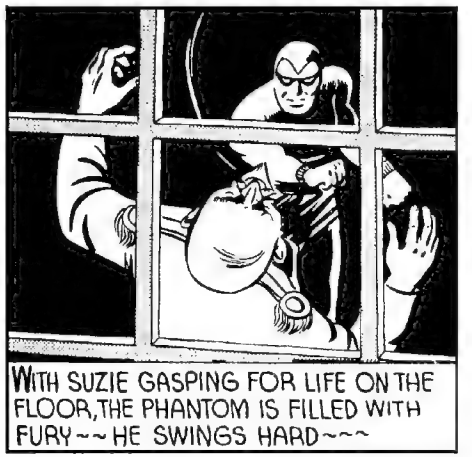

AS THE GOVERNOR'S FINGER TIGHTENS ON THE TRIGGER, THE PHANTOM SUDDENLY HURLS A SMALL STOOL~~


R-9

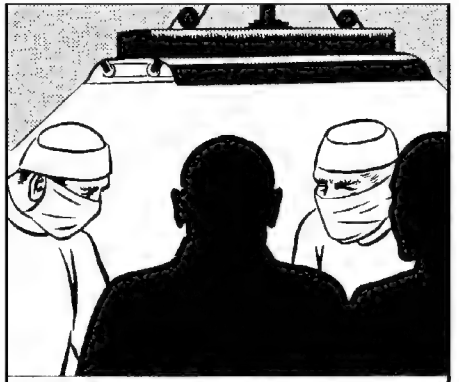

BEWILDERED, THE GOVERNOR LEAPS FOR THE PHANTOM'S GUNS WHICH ARE ON THE PRESIDENT'S DESK~~


THE GOVERNOR NEVER REACHES THOSE GUNS~~~ THE PHANTOM VAULTS THE DESK~~~


THE GHOST WHO WALKS~~~
THE ANCIENT LEGEND HAS COME TRUE ~~THE NEMESIS OF PIRATES HAS CAUGHT UP WITH THE GOVERNOR~~

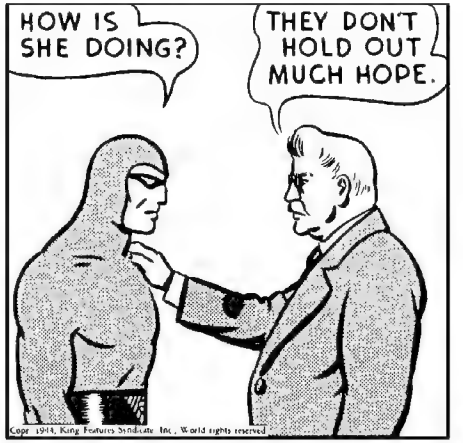

WITH SUZIE GASPING FOR LIFE ON THE FLOOR, THE PHANTOM IS FILLED WITH FURY~~ HE SWINGS HARD~~~

THE PHANTOM SWINGS WITH ALL HIS POWER~~
AND THE GOVERNOR CHEATS THE HANGMAN, AFTER ALL~~~
THE END OF THE PIRATE CHIEF ~~THE GOVERNOR~~~
MADMAN~~HE MEANT TO MURDER ALL OF US~~~
NOT MAD. DESPERATE. HIS PLAN WOULD HAVE WORKED~~EXCEPT FOR SUZIE~~
SHE SAVED OUR LIVES. CAN WE SAVE HER?
CONT'D.



SUZIE--SHOT BY THE GOVERNOR, --IS RUSHED TO A HOSPITAL---

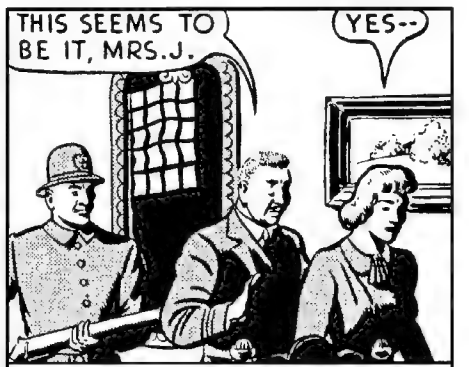
IN AN ANTEROOM, THE PHANTOM AND THE PRESIDENT AWAIT ANXIOUSLY--



WHILE SUZIE BATTLES FOR HER LIFE IN AN OXYGEN TENT---

THE GOVERNOR'S GANG OF PIRATES IS ROUNDED UP---

THE POLICE NET DRAWS TIGHT--- THE UNDERWORLD IS SCOURED FOR THE PIRATES---



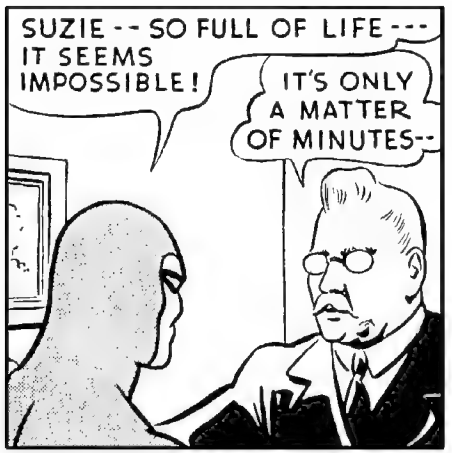
NOT ONLY THE UNDERWORLD--- BUT PEOPLE IN HIGH PLACES, TOO-- MRS.J. AND THE POLICE CHIEF---

THE LATE GOVERNOR'S FLEET OF STOLEN SHIPS IS SEIZED.

YOU'LL BE HAPPY TO KNOW THAT THE PIRATE GANG HAS BEEN ROUNDED UP.
FINE. HOW ABOUT SUZIE?

NO HOPE. SHE'S BEEN ASKING TO SEE YOU.
R-16

YOU MEAN, SHE'S GOING TO---
THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO.


SUZIE -- SO FULL OF LIFE --- IT SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE!
IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF MINUTES--

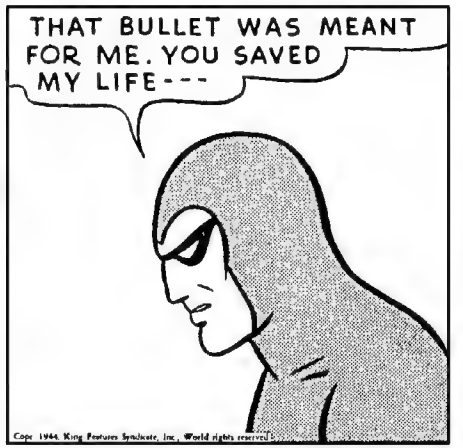
SHE SAVED MY LIFE -- BEFORE THAT, SHE COULD HAVE TURNED ME OVER TO THE GOVERNOR'S SOLDIERS A DOZEN TIMES
R-17

SHE LED ME TO YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, KNOWING SHE MIGHT HANG AS A PIRATE, IF I REACHED YOU ---
A BRAVE GIRL

SHE'S ASKING FOR YOU--
TOMORROW-- SUZIE

YOU'VE COME-- AT LAST--
SUZIE--YOU LOOK FINE--

DON'T TRY TO FOOL ME. I KNOW HOW IT IS-- WITH ME--
R-18

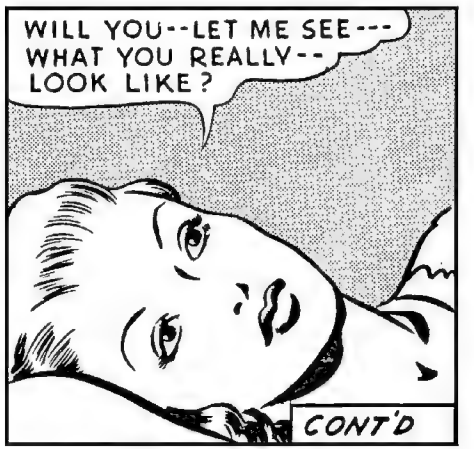

THAT BULLET WAS MEANT FOR ME. YOU SAVED MY LIFE---

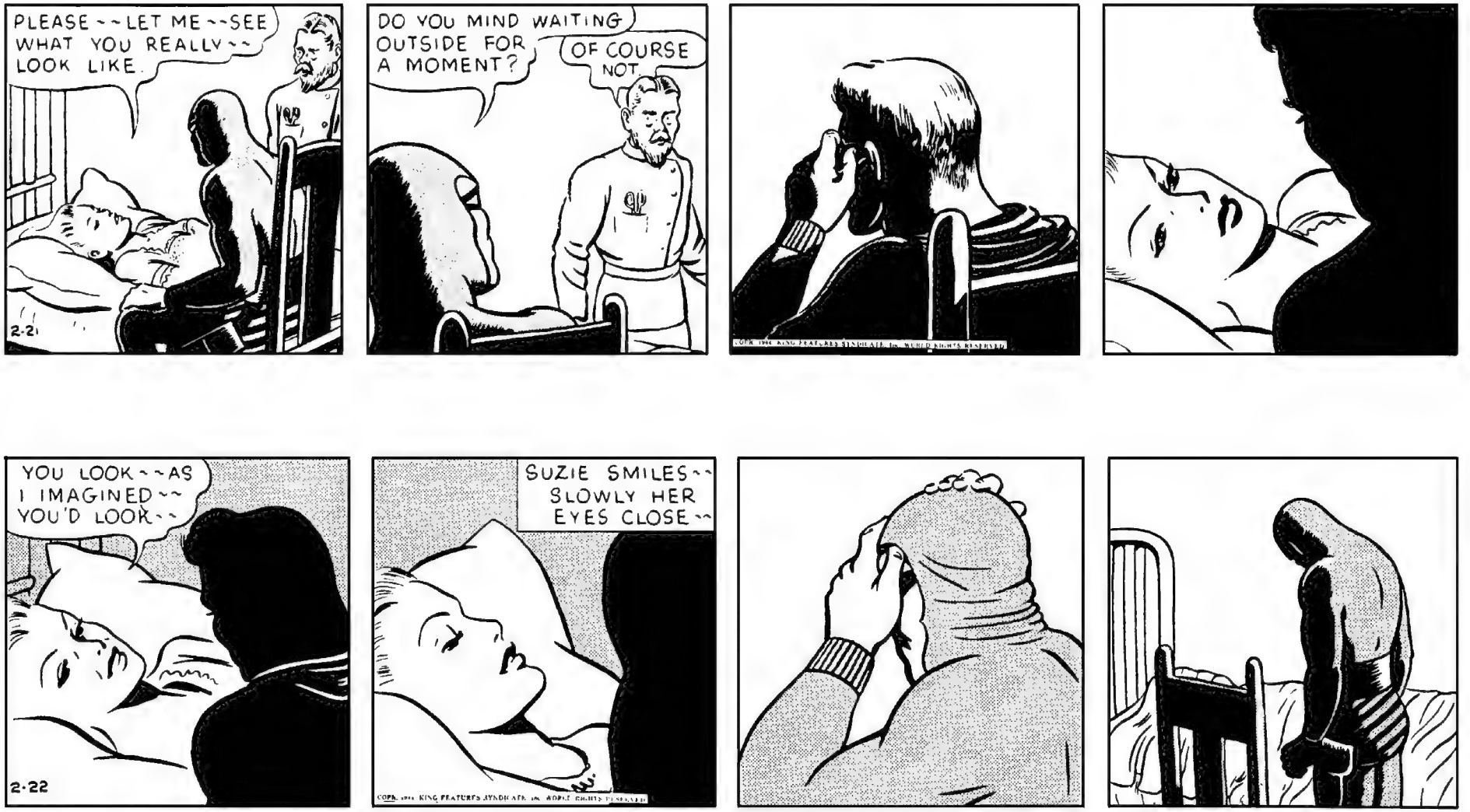
I'VE DONE BAD THINGS -- MAYBE THIS WILL EVEN UP THE SCORE A LITTLE---
TOMORROW- REQUEST--

PLEASE DON'T---FEEL SORRY FOR ME. THIS IS -- THE FIRST DECENT THING I'VE EVER--DONE. I FEEL--GOOD--

BECAUSE I'M GOING TO--- DIE--I CAN SAY SOMETHING.

YOU'RE THE FIRST MAN I'VE EVER REALLY LOVED--- YET--I'VE NEVER SEEN YOUR FACE---
R-18


WILL YOU--LET ME SEE--- WHAT YOU REALLY-- LOOK LIKE?
CONT'D


PLEASE ~~LET ME ~~SEE WHAT YOU REALLY ~~ LOOK LIKE.
2-21
DO YOU MIND WAITING OUTSIDE FOR A MOMENT?
OF COURSE NOT.
YOU LOOK ~~AS I IMAGINED ~~ YOU'D LOOK ~~
2-22
SUZIE SMILES ~~ SLOWLY HER EYES CLOSE ~~

THE CAPITAL IS PUZZLED BY A LARGE FUNERAL PROCESSION~~
THE PRESIDENT HIMSELF FOLLOWS THE PROCESSION ON FOOT, SIDE BY SIDE WITH A STRANGER
THUS SUZIE, THE PIRATE, RECEIVES AN HONORABLE BURIAL~~
THE TRUE STORY OF THIS WILL NEVER BE KNOWN
GOODBYE, SUZIE
2-23
THIS REPUBLIC OWES YOU A LOT YOU SAVED THE LIFE OF THE PRESIDENT~~ MYSELF~~AND BROUGHT A VICIOUS PIRATE GANG TO JUSTICE.
THANK YOU SIR. WE BOTH OWE A LOT TO POOR SUZIE
I, PERSONALLY OWE YOU MUCH THE GOVERNOR MEANT TO KILL ME ~~HE WOULD HAVE SUCCEEDED, BUT FOR YOU.
2-24
CAN'T YOU TELL ME WHO YOU ARE? YOU DESERVE A MEDAL
IT DOESN'T MATTER. GOODBYE~AND GOOD LUCK, SIR
TOMORROW~~ LONELY PHANTOM

WAITING FOR HIS SHIP TO SAIL THE PHANTOM WANDERS ON THE WHARF, AMONG THE STOLEN SHIPS OF THE LATE GOVERNOR~~

THE VISION OF BRAVE, LITTLE SUZIE HAUNTS HIM~~HE SEEMS TO SEE HER EVERYWHERE

WE'RE ALL ALONE "DEVIL"~~
THOUGH HE WAS NEVER IN LOVE WITH HER, SHE HAD BEEN A BRAVE COMPANION HE IS LONELY~~

I WONDER WHAT SHES DOING NOW? MARRIED TO BYRON YET?
2-25
THEN HE THINKS OF DIANA AND HIS LONELINESS BECOMES BITTER.

BACK TO THE DEEP WOODS FOR US "DEVIL"~~ BUT I WOULD LIKE TO SEE DIANA ONCE MORE
2-26

I'M IN LOVE WITH BYRON.
HE THINKS BACK TO THE LAST TIME HE SAW HER~~ DIANA BELIEVED SHE'D NEVER WALK AGAIN.~~

SO SHE LIED TO HIM! AFTER HE LEFT HER POWER TO WALK RETURNED AGAIN, BUT HE DIDN'T KNOW THAT~~

YES DEVIL JUST ONE MORE GLIMPSE OF DIANA~~
NEXT WEEK: DIANA~~

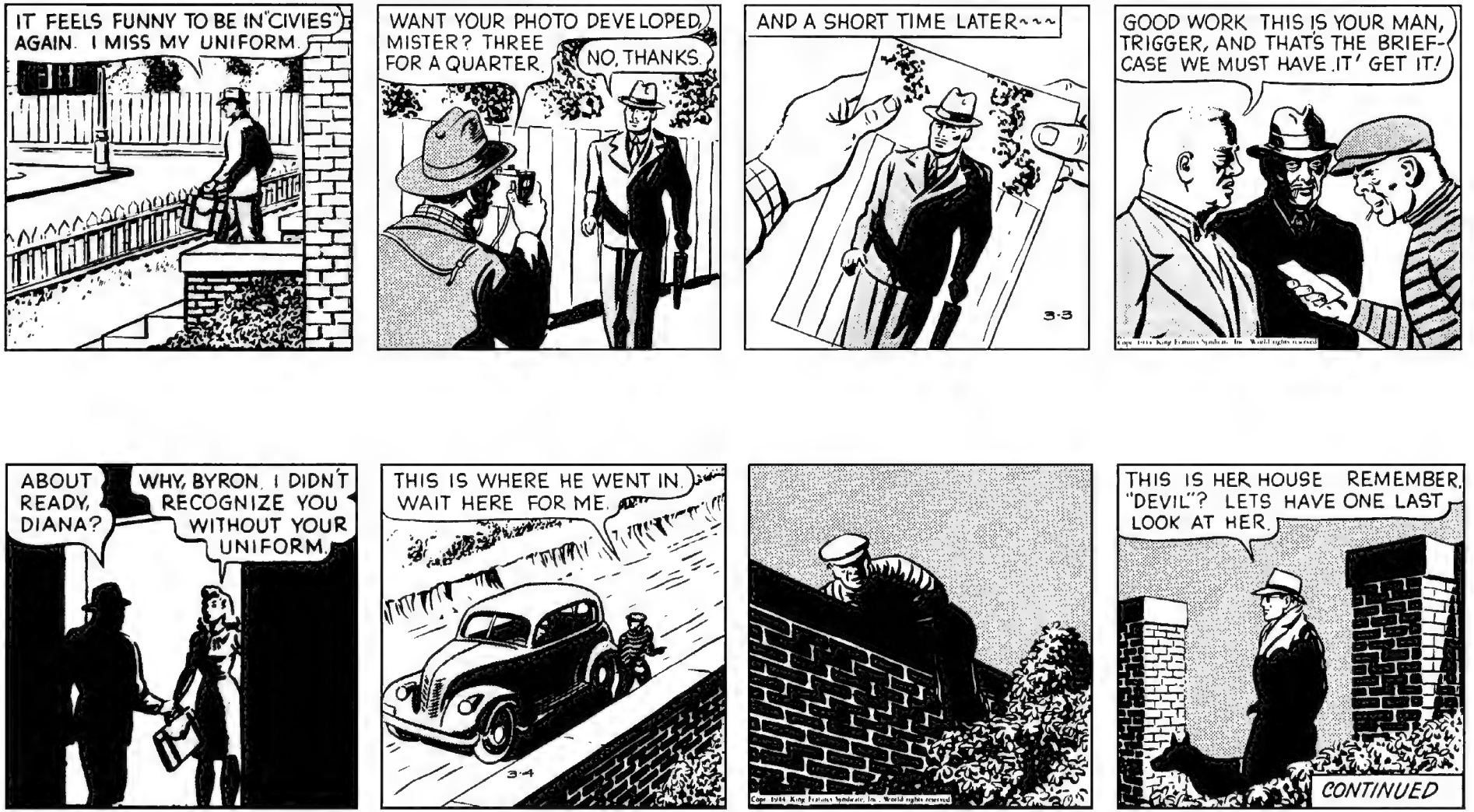
Chapter Four: The Spy Game

the PHANTOM®

Note: On May 1, 1944, page 218 in this book, King Features added a horizontal rectangular box to the first panel of *The Phantom*, in all likelihood for the inclusion of the strip's title and credits. The King Features press proofs utilized in this volume reproduce, without alteration, the original syndicate materials. This "box" ran from May 1, 1944 partially through the "Maharajah's Daughter" continuity featured in the next volume of our complete reprint.

STILL MOONING ABOUT THE PHANTOM, DIANA?
I NEVER EXPECT TO SEE HIM AGAIN, BYRON. YOU REMEMBER HOW I LIED TO HIM. I MEANT WELL, BUT~~
I THOUGHT I'D NEVER WALK AGAIN. I DIDN'T TELL HIM THAT, BECAUSE I KNEW HE'D INSIST ON MARRYING ME, ANYHOW, SO~ I TOLD HIM I LOVED YOU.
I HOPE YOU'VE FORGIVEN ME FOR THAT
SURE. MAYBE THERE'S A CHANCE FOR ME NOW
R-28
ONE MORE GLIMPSE AT DIANA, "DEVIL", AND THEN WE'LL HEAD BACK FOR THE DEEP WOODS.
TOMORROW: MISSION
CAPTAIN BYRON, THESE PAPERS MUST BE TAKEN TO THE COAST. I'VE SELECTED YOU FOR THE JOB.
YES, SIR, MAJOR PALMER.
ENEMY AGENTS MAY PICK UP YOUR TRAIL. THERE MAY BE DANGER.
WE WON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT, SIR.
NO, BUT WE MUST BE CAREFUL. YOU'LL TRAVEL IN CIVILIAN CLOTHES. ARMED, OF COURSE, AND I HAVE ANOTHER IDEA.
R-29
WOULD YOU OBJECT IF MY NIECE, DIANA, WENT WITH YOU?
ARE YOU JOKING, SIR?

HERE'S THE SITUATION, DIANA. I HAVE A MISSION TO THE COAST. I MUST LEAVE TONIGHT.
I'M SORRY. WILL YOU BE BACK SOON?
YES. NOW, MY CHIEF, YOUR UNCLE, WANTS ME TO WEAR "CIVIES"--AND TRAVEL AS A MARRIED MAN, WITH A WIFE. LESS CONSPICUOUS THAT WAY.
3-1
WITH A WIFE? BUT UNCLE DAVE KNOWS YOU'RE NOT MARRIED WHERE ON EARTH WILL YOU GET A WIFE BY TONIGHT?
I HAD YOU IN MIND
DID YOU, INDEED?
YOU UNDERSTAND, DIANA, IF YOU ACCOMPANY ME ON THIS MISSION, YOU'LL ONLY PRETEND TO BE MY WIFE.
THAT'S DIFFERENT.
YOU'LL DO IT?
OF COURSE. BUT REMEMBER--WE'RE JUST PRETENDING!
SHE'LL GO, MAJOR PALMER.
DIANA HAS WORKED FOR US BEFORE SHE'LL BE ARMED, TOO GOOD LUCK. GUARD THIS CASE WITH YOUR LIFE!
3-R


IT FEELS FUNNY TO BE IN "CIVIES" AGAIN. I MISS MY UNIFORM.
WANT YOUR PHOTO DEVELOPED, MISTER? THREE FOR A QUARTER.
NO, THANKS.
AND A SHORT TIME LATER~~~
3-3
GOOD WORK. THIS IS YOUR MAN, TRIGGER, AND THAT'S THE BRIEF-CASE WE MUST HAVE. IT' GET IT!
ABOUT READY, DIANA?
WHY, BYRON. I DIDN'T RECOGNIZE YOU WITHOUT YOUR UNIFORM.
THIS IS WHERE HE WENT IN. WAIT HERE FOR ME.
3-4
THIS IS HER HOUSE. REMEMBER, "DEVIL"? LETS HAVE ONE LAST LOOK AT HER.
CONTINUED

REMEMBER, DIANA, WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE MARRIED.
AND YOU REMEMBER, YOUNG MAN, THAT IT'S "JUST SUPPOSED TO BE".

DIANA, AND CAPTAIN BYRON ARE EMBARKING ON A SECRET MILITARY MISSION.
I GOT A RING ~~ JUST TO MAKE IT LOOK REAL. DARN IT, I WISH IT WERE THE REAL THING.
3-6

A RING ~~ THEY'RE MARRIED ~~

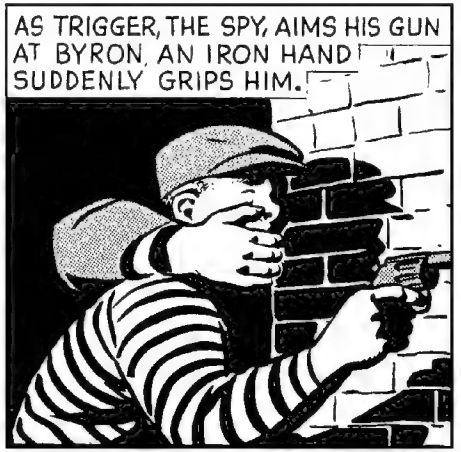
THE PHANTOM HEARS SOFT FOOTSTEPS ~~ HE SLIPS NOISELESSLY INTO THE SHADOWS, AS A SINISTER FIGURE APPROACHES THE HOUSE ~~

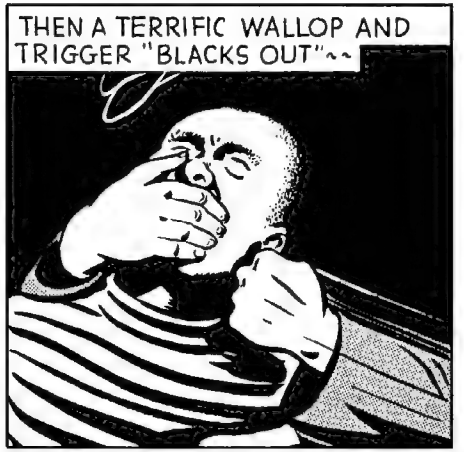
NIGHT ~~ OUTSIDE DIANA'S HOME ~~

WELL, WE'RE OFF, BYRON, AND THAT'S THE CASE WE HAVE TO DELIVER.
AND GUARD WITH OUR LIVES, DIANA.
3-7

I'LL WAIT UNTIL THEY COME OUT THE DOOR ~~ THEN PLUG THEM ~~ GRAB THE CASE ~~

TRIGGER, THE SPY, WAITS, THEN AIMS ~~


AS TRIGGER, THE SPY, AIMS HIS GUN AT BYRON, AN IRON HAND SUDDENLY GRIPS HIM.


THEN A TERRIFIC WALLOP AND TRIGGER "BLACKS OUT"~~

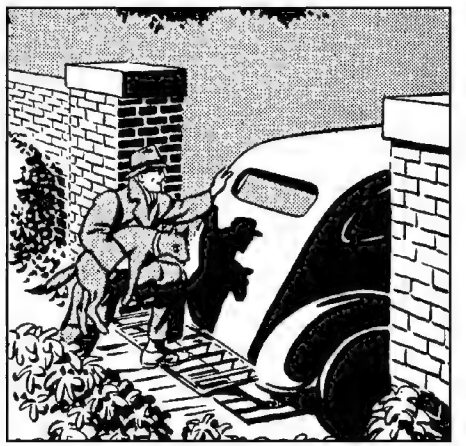
DID YOU HEAR THAT, BYRON? THAT SHARP CRACK?
NO, I DIDN'T DIANA.

MAYBE I'M NERVOUS~~ WITH THESE IMPORTANT PAPERS SPIES, YOU KNOW.
YOU'VE SEEN TOO MANY MOVIES.
3-8

THE PHANTOM THINKS FAST~~~
HE'S OUT COLD. WHO IS HE? WHY WAS HE TRYING TO SHOOT DIANA AND BYRON?

BYRON IS WEARING "CIVIES". MUST BE ON AN INTELLIGENCE JOB... HAS SOMETHING THIS FELLOW WANTED. MAY BE OTHERS AFTER BYRON~~ AND DIANA.

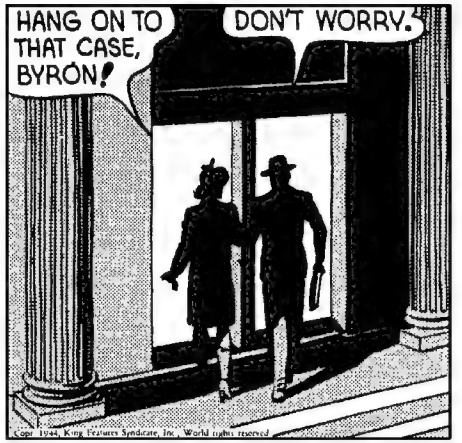
DIANA AND BYRON START OFF, NOT KNOWING OF THE ATTEMPT ON THEIR LIVES
WELL, HERE WE GO, DIANA.
3-9



HOW'S IT FEEL TO BE "MRS BYRON?"
REMEMBER, MY LAD, THIS IS ONLY PRETENDING.
DIANA, MARRIED--
FUNNY, BYRON. SOMETIMES I HAVE A FEELING THAT HE'S NEARBY
GEE, YOU SURE CARRY A TORCH FOR THAT GUY!
THEY'RE IN TROUBLE--SOMEBODY'S AFTER THEM--BUT THEY DON'T SEEM TO KNOW IT! I'D BETTER STICK WITH THEM FOR A WHILE--
3-10
CHIEF, I HAD A BEAD ON 'EM THEN SOMETHIN' GRABBED ME--HIT ME WITH A CROWBAR--THATS ALL I KNOW--
TRIGGER, THAT IDIOT MESSED UP THE JOB SOME FOOL EXCUSE I THINK HE'S DRUNK!
3-11
I'LL DEAL WITH HIM LATER! BUT I WANT THAT CASE! SEND IN "NUMBER FIVE"
"NUMBER 5", I WANT THE CASE THAT CAPTAIN BYRON IS CARRYING. TAKE SEVERAL MEN. WHETHER YOU KILL BYRON OR NOT, DOES NOT MATTER! I WANT THAT CASE!
CONTINUED...

LOOKS AS IF THEY'RE HEADED FOR THAT GARAGE. WE'D BETTER BAIL OUT HERE, "DEVIL".
3-13

THEY'LL KEEP THE CAR HERE. THE STATION'S ONLY A BLOCK AWAY, DIANA.
GARAGE


HANG ON TO THAT CASE, BYRON!
DON'T WORRY.
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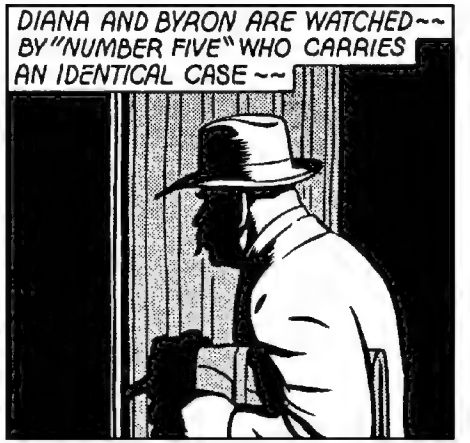
DIANA AND BYRON ARE WATCHED~~ BY "NUMBER FIVE" WHO CARRIES AN IDENTICAL CASE ~~

I'LL GET THE TICKETS, DIANA.
I'LL GET SOME~ THING TO READ ON THE TRAIN.
3-14

TICKETS

I HAVE TWO RESERVATIONS. JUST A MINUTE, I HAVE THE NUMBERS~~
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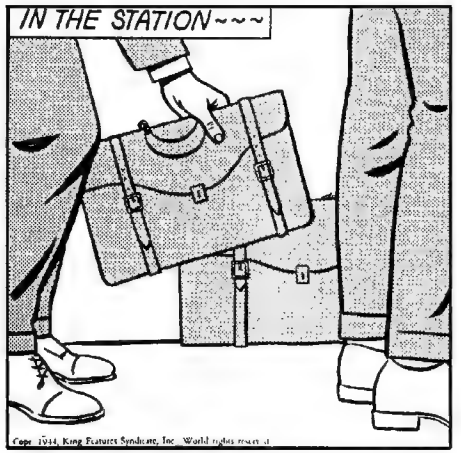
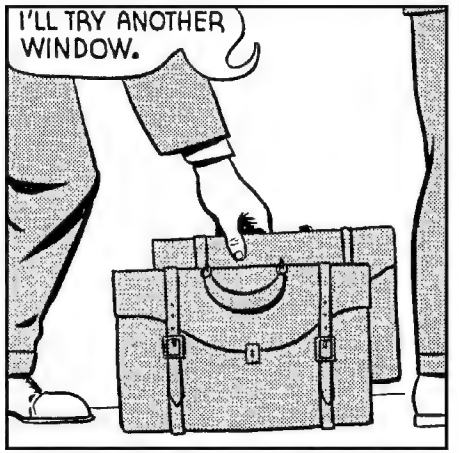
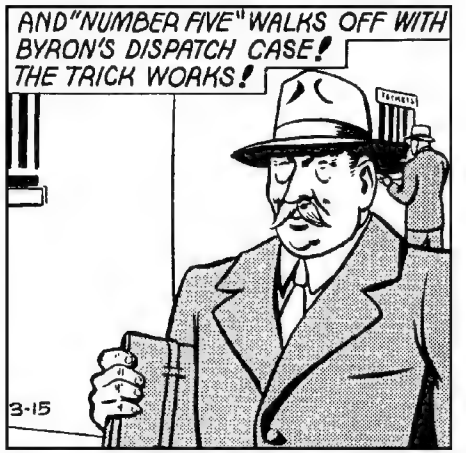
THAT'S THE CASE~~~!


IN THE STATION~~~

THEY TAKE A LONG TIME WITH THOSE TICKETS.
WELL, THEY'VE GOT A LOT OF WORK TO DO

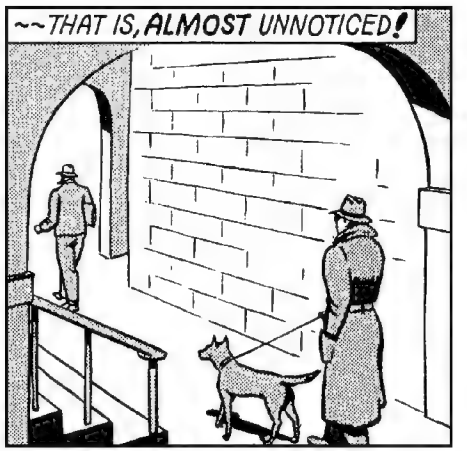

I'LL TRY ANOTHER WINDOW.

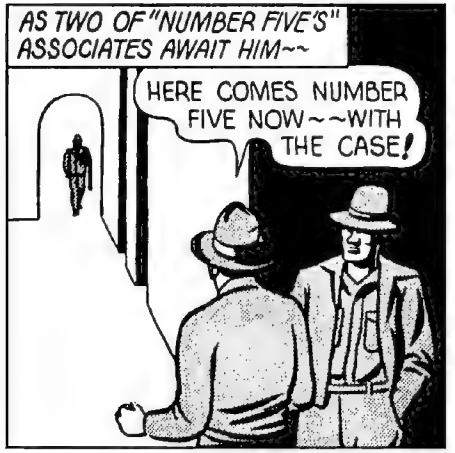

AND "NUMBER FIVE" WALKS OFF WITH BYRON'S DISPATCH CASE! THE TRICK WORKS!
3-15

BYRON DOESN'T KNOW THAT HIS SECRET DISPATCH CASE HAS BEEN STOLEN, AND SUPPLANTED BY AN IDENTICAL CASE!
3-16

I BOUGHT ALL THE READING MATERIAL IN SIGHT.
GOOD, LET'S GET ON THE TRAIN.

MEANWHILE, THE ENEMY AGENT, "NUMBER FIVE", WALKS OFF, UNNOTICED~~
THAT WAS AS EASY AS FALLING OFF A LOG!


~~THAT IS, ALMOST UNNOTICED!


AS TWO OF "NUMBER FIVE'S" ASSOCIATES AWAIT HIM~~
HERE COMES NUMBER FIVE NOW~~WITH THE CASE!

SUDDENLY, THEY SEE THEIR FELLOW SPY JERKED OUT OF SIGHT~~

WHAT GOES ON HERE?
I DON'T KNOW!

"NUMBER FIVE" IS KNOCKED COLD!
THERE HE GOES~~ WITH THE CASE! AFTER HIM!
3-17

BYRON DOES NOT KNOW THAT HE IS CARRYING A PHONY DISPATCH CASE.
THIS IS OUR CAR, BYRON.

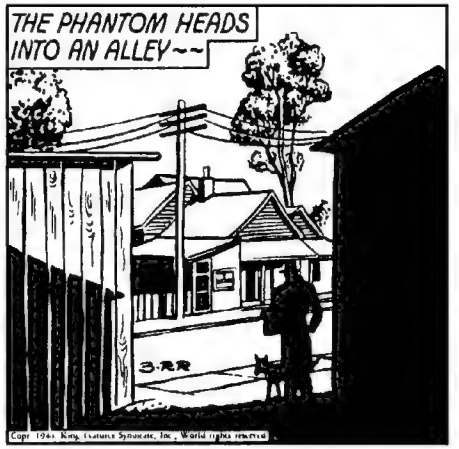
THE REAL CASE HAS BEEN STOLEN BY A SPY RING~~
SO FAR, SO GOOD, DIANA.
AND I THOUGHT THIS WAS GOING TO BE EXCITING, BYRON.

~~AND RECOVERED BY THE PHANTOM, WHO IS BEING PURSUED BY THE SPY THUGS~~
HE WENT IN HERE~~ HAD A DOG WITH HIM~~
KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN. MAYBE HE'S ARMED~~

DON'T KNOW WHAT'S IN THIS CASE~~ BUT WE'D BETTER HANG ONTO IT~~ AND GET IT BACK TO BYRON~~
3-18
CONT'D.

DIANA AND BYRON DO NOT KNOW THAT THE SECRET DISPATCH CASE HAS BEEN SWITCHED, AND THAT THEY ARE CARRYING A DUMMY CASE.
TRAIN'S STARTING TO MOVE.
OH, DEAR, AND NOT EVEN ONE SPY, YET.
CAN'T FIND HIM.
WE'D BETTER WARN THE OTHERS!
THE PHANTOM HAS THE REAL CASE~~ WHICH HE HAS TAKEN FROM THE SPY GANG~~~
TOO LATE, MISTER. THAT TRAIN'S GONE!
AND DIANA AND BYRON ARE GONE, WITH IT!
TOMORROW~~ GUY AND A DOG.
HMM~~I CAN GET A PLANE, AND CATCH THAT TRAIN AT MIDVILLE. THAT'S THE ONLY WAY I CAN GET THIS CASE BACK TO BYRON.
WATCH ALL EXITS. A GUY WITH A DOG HAS THE CASE.
RIGHT.
THAT'S HIM.
DON'T LOSE HIM~~

WE'RE BEING FOLLOWED,"DEVIL". THE"GENTLEMEN"ARE AFTER THIS CASE--AND US!


THE PHANTOM HEADS INTO AN ALLEY--

AND IN THE ALLEY---

OH-OH--COMING FROM BOTH WAYS. AND WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE!

SURROUNDED BY THE SPY GANG IN THE DARK ALLEY, THE PHANTOM MOVES FAST---

HE WENT IN THAT CELLAR WINDOW!
AFTER HIM!

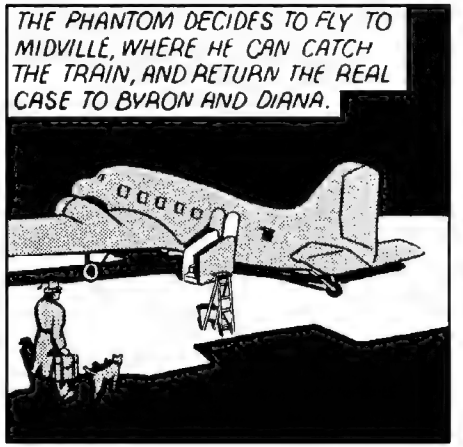
WHERE IS HE?
THERE'S A DOOR! HE MUSTA WENT THAT WAY!

WE'LL BOTH NEED A SHOWER AFTER THIS, "DEVIL". IT WOULD BE SOFT COAL!

THE SWITCH WORKED PERFECTLY, CHIEF. I HAD THE CASE--THEN, ALL OF A SUDDEN, SOMETHING GRABBED ME--
THAT'S RIGHT, CHIEF. WE SEEN IT--A GUY WITH A DOG.
WE CHASED HIM--BUT HE GOT AWAY.
I CAN'T FIGURE IT OUT. WHOEVER HE IS, HE'LL PROBABLY GET THAT CASE BACK TO BYRON ON THE TRAIN.
IF YOU TAKE THE NEXT PLANE, YOU CAN MAKE CONNECTIONS WITH THE TRAIN AT MIDVILLE. GO AHEAD-- AND BRING BACK THAT CASE!
TOMORROW-- THE PLANE.
ALL WE HAVE TO DO, "DEVIL", IS TAKE THIS PLANE TO MIDVILLE, CATCH THE TRAIN THERE-
--AND GET THIS CASE BACK TO DIANA AND BYRON.
THAT'S OUR PLANE.
WE GO TO MIDVILLE. AND GET ON THE TRAIN THERE.
SAY, NUMBER FIVE, WHO DO YOU THINK THAT GUY WITH THE DOG WAS?
WE'LL PROBABLY NEVER SEE HIM AGAIN, BUT IF WE EVER DO--!
CONT'D.

THE STORY SO FAR —— BYRON AND DIANA ARE ON A SECRET MISSION. A SPY STEALS THE CASE CONTAINING THE PAPERS, AND LEAVES A "DUMMY" CASE IN ITS PLACE!

THE PHANTOM RECOVERS THE REAL CASE--BUT DIANA AND BYRON HAVE ALREADY LEFT ON THE TRAIN, WITH THE PHONY CASE.

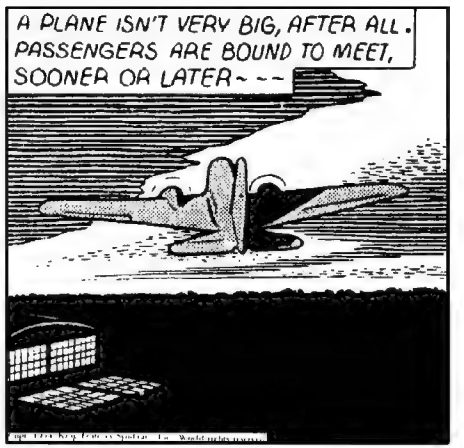

THE PHANTOM DECIDES TO FLY TO MIDVILLE, WHERE HE CAN CATCH THE TRAIN, AND RETURN THE REAL CASE TO BYRON AND DIANA.

THE SPY RING HAS THE SAME IDEA -- TWO OF GANG BOARD THE SAME PLANE, NOT KNOWING THAT THE PHANTOM IS ON IT!
CONT'D.

YOUR DOG IS IN THE BAGGAGE COMPARTMENT, AND QUITE COMFORTABLE, SIR.
THANK YOU.

THIS IS THE FIRST CHANCE I'VE HAD TO RELAX. THINK I'LL GET SOME SLEEP.

NOT KNOWING THE PHANTOM IS SEATED AHEAD OF THEM, THE TWO SPIES TAKE THEIR SEATS.
THIS IS OUR SEAT.


A PLANE ISN'T VERY BIG, AFTER ALL. PASSENGERS ARE BOUND TO MEET, SOONER OR LATER---

ON THE PLANE, AS IT SPEEDS THRU THE SKY--
THINK WE'LL FIND THE CASE ON THE TRAIN?
IT'S OUR ONLY CHANCE. WE LOST TRACK OF THE MAN WITH THE DOG.
HE HAS THE REAL CASE. THE CHIEF'S HUNCH IS THAT HE'LL GET IT BACK TO BYRON-- ON THE TRAIN.
LET'S HOPE SO. I'M GONNA GET A DRINK.
WHAT'S THE MATTER? AIR SICK? YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'VE SEEN A GHOST.
MAYBE-- I HAVE--
IT'S HIM--THE GUY WITH THE DOG-- THE GUY WHO SOCKED YOU IN THE STATION--AND TOOK THE CASE!
HE'S ASLEEP--AND THE CASE IS ON HIS LAP!

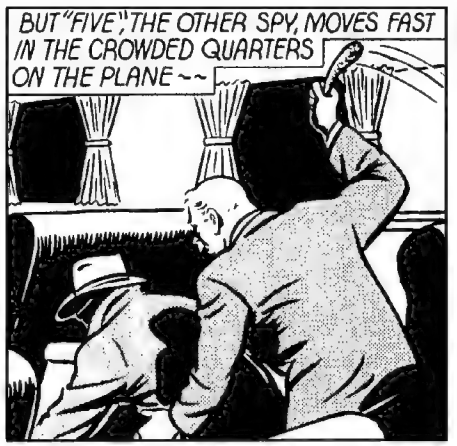
WAIT--YOU FORGET--WE'RE ON A PLANE --HE CAN'T ESCAPE --
3-31
STEWARDESS, DO YOU KNOW THE NAME OF THAT PASSENGER -- THE ONE WHO'S ASLEEP?
NO, SIR, BUT I CAN LOOK ON THE LIST AND TELL YOU.
NEVER MIND. TELL ME, WHY IS THE PLANE SO EMPTY?
WE'RE PICKING UP A SPECIAL GROUP OF PASSENGERS AT MIDVILLE.
DON'T LET OUT A SQUEAK, BABE AND YOU'LL BE ALL RIGHT!
THE SPIES GAG AND TIE THE STEWARDESS ON THE PLANE--
SURE, I CAN HANDLE A PLANE, "FIVE".
GOOD! FIRST, WE'LL GET THE CASE FROM HIM-- THEN KNOCK OFF THE PILOTS--AND FLY BACK--
THUS, AS THE PLANE SPEEDS ABOVE THE CLOUDS, ITS POWERFUL MOTORS DRONING, THE PHANTOM SLEEPS ON - - -
CONT'D.

AS THE SPIES ARE ABOUT TO KNIFE THE PHANTOM, THE PLANE DIPS IN ROUGH AIR~~ AWAKENING HIM~~
4-3

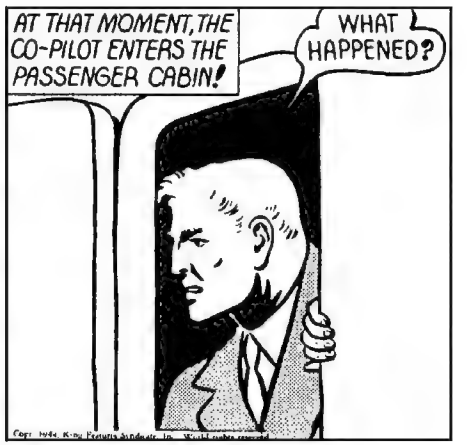
THE THUG RUSHES THE SEATED PHANTOM, BEFORE THE LATTER CAN GET UP~~

BUT THE PHANTOM CAN FIGHT FROM ANY POSITION~~ AS THE SPY SWIFTLY LEARNS!

AS THE SPY LUNGES AT THE PHANTOM WITH A KNIFE, THE PHANTOM KICKS HIM BACK, THEN LEAPS AT HIM~~


BUT "FIVE", THE OTHER SPY, MOVES FAST IN THE CROWDED QUARTERS ON THE PLANE~~

WOW~~HE ONLY HAD HIS HANDS ON ME FOR A SECOND~~AND ALMOST BROKE MY NECK!
THE CASE!
4-4


AT THAT MOMENT, THE CO-PILOT ENTERS THE PASSENGER CABIN!
WHAT HAPPENED?

YOU SAY HE FAINTED?
YES~~JUST KEELED OVER. MUST BE THE ALTITUDE~~~
~~OR SOMETHING!
WHERE'S THE STEWARDESS? ~~UH~~
NOW FOR THE PILOT! BE READY TO GRAB THE CONTROLS.
OKAY, "FIVE"!
SORRY, SIR. PASSENGERS AREN'T ALLOWED IN HERE.
4-5
GENTLEMEN, PASSENGERS ARE NOT PERMITTED HERE!
WHAT'D HE SAY?
HE SAID WE'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO BE HERE.
I GOT IT!
THAT WAS EASY!
WE'VE GOT THE CASE! TURN AROUND. WE'RE FLYING BACK!
4-6

THE PHANTOM AND THE PILOTS ARE OVERCOME BY THE SNEAK ATTACK OF THE SPIES~~
4-7
I'LL RADIO THE CHIEF AND TELL HIM WHAT WE'VE DONE!
MEANWHILE, MANY MILES AWAY, AND A FEW THOUSAND FEET BELOW, ON A SPEEDING TRAIN~~~
BORED, DIANA?
IT'S NOT THE COMPANY, BYRON.
BUT I THOUGHT THERE'D BE SOME EXCITEMENT ON THIS SECRET MISSION.
THIS ISN'T A GAME, DIANA. LET'S BE HAPPY NOTHING'S HAPPENED SO FAR.
A MESSAGE WITH OUR CALL LETTERS COMING IN, CHIEF. IN OUR CODE!
TAKE IT DOWN.
HERE IT IS, DECODED!
THEY'VE GOT THE CASE~~ THEY'VE TAKEN THE PLANE! WHAT LUCK!
THEY GET OUR MESSAGE ALL RIGHT?
YES. NOW I'M GOING TO MAKE SURE OUR PASSENGERS DON'T WAKE UP! I'LL NEED YOUR KNIFE!
4-8
CONT'D.

IN THE PLANE, THE SPY, "FIVE", DECIDES TO FINISH OFF THE PHANTOM AND THE PILOTS!
THIS IS A NASTY BUSINESS, BUT IT HAS TO BE DONE.

HE PAUSES, HIS THIEVISH EYES ATTRACTED BY A SIGN~~
HMM--MAYBE I CAN PICK UP SOMETHING VALUABLE IN HERE.
BAGGAGE

HE OPENS THE DOOR~~THEN WITHOUT WARNING, A GRAV FORM LEAPS AT HIM!
4-10

"DEVIL'S" SURPRISE ATTACK THROWS "FIVE", THE SPY, OFF BALANCE.
A WOLF!

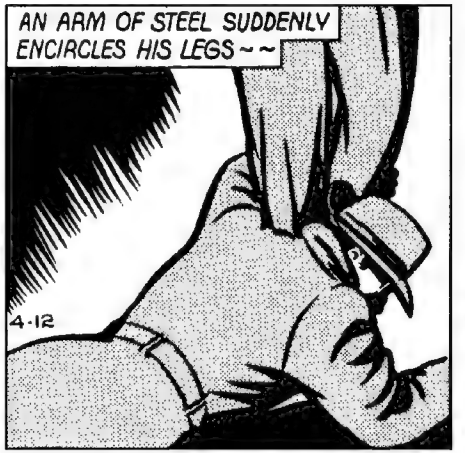
HE TRIES TO GET THE KNIFE, BUT "DEVIL'S" TEETH CHANGE FIVE'S MIND~~

GET AWAY, YOU @X! X@!!

"FIVE" FINALLY MANAGES TO REACH HIS GUN~~
4-11

IN THE PLANE, THE PHANTOM STIRS, REVIVED BY DEVIL'S "BARKING ~~~

MEANWHILE, "DEVIL" HARRIES "FIVE" ~~ WHO FINALLY GETS A BEAD ON HIM ~~ AND IS ABOUT TO FIRE WHEN ~~


AN ARM OF STEEL SUDDENLY ENCIRCLES HIS LEGS ~~
4-12

"FIVE" HANGS ON TO A SEAT FOR DEAR LIFE, AND TURNS HIS GUN ON THE PHANTOM!

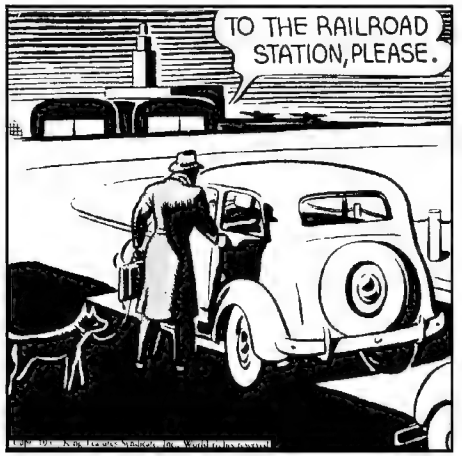
IN THE NARROW CONFINES OF THE PLANE: AS "FIVE" AIMS HIS GUN AT THE PHANTOM, "DEVIL" LEAPS AT THE SPY'S GUN~HAND ~~
4-13

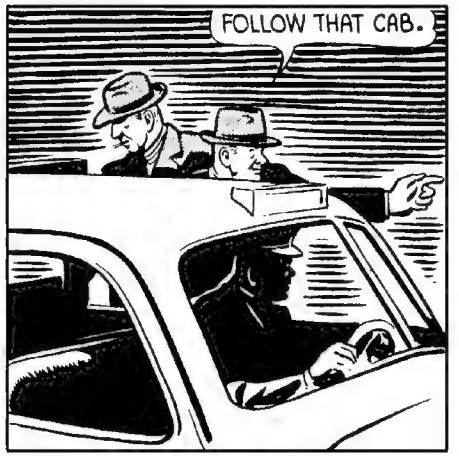
A SECOND LATER, "FIVE" IS FLAT ON HIS BACK ~ SMACKED INTO OBLIVION BY AN IRON FIST!

MEANWHILE, THE OTHER SPY, AT THE PLANE CONTROLS, SEES WHAT'S HAPPENED!

IN THE CONTROL-ROOM OF THE PLANE, THE REMAINING SPY TALKS FAST, DESPERATELY~~
4-14
AND AT THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE SPY RING~~
HERE'S ANOTHER MESSAGE FROM THE PLANE, CHIEF! IT SAYS-TROUBLE, TROUBLE~~
THE MESSAGE STOPPED~~ ALL OF A SUDDEN, CHIEF~~
HMMM~~
ON THE PLANE, THE PHANTOM AT THE CONTROLS~~~
WHAT HAPPENED?
THOSE TWO MEN TRIED TO HIJACK THE PLANE, PILOT. TAKE OVER THE STICK WHENEVER YOU'RE READY.
AND AT THE SPIES' HEADQUARTERS~~
"FIVE" AND HANS FAILED ON THE PLANE. WIRE OUR TWO MEN AT MIDVILLE NOT TO EXPECT THEM.
TELL THEM TO MEET THE PLANE, AND WATCH FOR THE MAN AND THE DOG! HE HAS THE CASE!
4-15
AND ON THE TRAIN~~
WE'LL BE IN MIDVILLE IN AN HOUR, DIANA.
OH, DEAR,~~WE HAVEN'T ANY EXCITEMENT AT ALL!
CONT'D.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE SPY RING~~
OUR MEN ON THE PLANE FAILED. WATCH FOR THE MAN WITH THE DOG. HE HAS THE CASE. IS IT CLEAR?
4-17
AND IN MIDVILLE~~
OKAY, CHIEF. DON'T WORRY ~~WE'LL GET THE CASE!
WHO'S THE GUY WITH THE DOG?
WHO CARES? HE'S GOT THE CASE. THAT'S ALL WE HAVE TO KNOW.
THERE'S THE PLANE. DO WE HAVE TO KNOCK THIS GUY OFF?
IF HE GIVES US ANY TROUBLE, WE DO.
YOU CERTAINLY SWATTED THESE BIRDS. THEY'RE HARDLY MOVING. DO YOU KNOW WHO THEY ARE?
NO.
YOU HAD QUITE A TIME, STEWARDESS. FEEL ALL RIGHT?
YES, BUT I WAS MIGHTY SCARED.
SEE THOSE STRANGE MARKS ON THEIR JAWS?~LOOK LIKE SKULLS!
HOLD BOTH MEN UNTIL THE POLICE ARRIVE.
*"WALKER" FOR THE "GHOST WHO WALKS".
I CAN'T FIGURE ANY OF THIS OUT. WHO IS HE?
HIS NAME IS MR. WALKER.* THAT'S ALL I KNOW.
4-18


TO THE RAILROAD STATION, PLEASE.


FOLLOW THAT CAB.

WE'LL BE HERE FIVE MINUTES. WE CAN GET SOME AIR.
SO THIS IS MIDVILLE.

DIANA~~AND BYRON! STILL DON'T KNOW THE CASE THEY'RE CARRYING IS A PHONY! WELL, THEIR TROUBLES ARE OVER NOW.
4-19

TIME TO GET BACK ON. STILL LOOKING FOR SPIES, DIANA?
NO, I'VE GIVEN UP.

COME ON, "DEVIL".

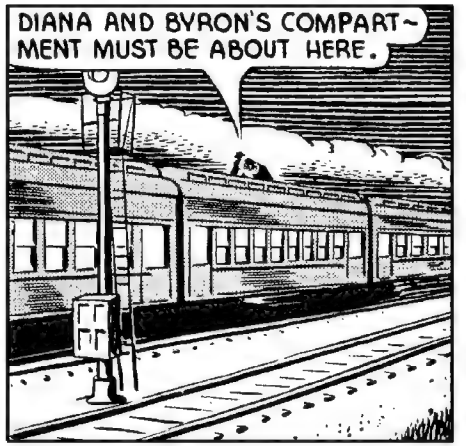
DON'T LOSE HIM!
WE WON'T.

BYRON, I'VE DECIDED THAT SPIES EXIST ONLY IN THE MOVIES AND IN MYSTERY BOOKS.
LET'S HOPE THEY STAY THERE.
4-20

BYRON, WHAT'S IN THAT CASE?
IT'S NOT MY BUSINESS TO KNOW. I'M JUST SUPPOSED TO DELIVER IT.
YOU WAIT HERE, DEVIL. I'LL SLIP THIS CASE IN BYRON'S COMPARTMENT WHEN HE'S NOT LOOKING.
4-21
HE CAN DISCOVER FOR HIMSELF THAT THE CASE HE'S BEEN CARRYING IS A PHONY. THEN MY JOB IS FINISHED.
THEY'LL PROBABLY NEVER BE ABLE TO FIGURE ~~~
DON'T MOVE!
HAND OVER THAT CASE, QUICK!
IS THERE NO END TO YOU FELLOWS?
YOU CAN SMELL THIS CASE! IT'S AS CLOSE AS YOU'LL COME TO IT!
ANOTHER ONE!
4-22
HE TURNS, AND SWINGS OUT THRU THE OPEN DOOR OF THE SPEEDING TRAIN! CAN HE OUTWIT THE SPY~RING?
CONT'D.

HE ALMOST BROKE MY HEAD WITH THAT CASE!
WHERE'D HE GO?
4 24

HE'S UP ON THE ROOF. SHOULD WE GO AFTER HIM?
NOT ME I AIN'T NO MONKEY.


DIANA AND BYRON'S COMPART~ MENT MUST BE ABOUT HERE.

FUNNY~EVERY NOW AND THEN I HAVE THE FEELING THAT HE IS NEAR-BY.
STOP DREAMING. LET'S GET SOME~ THING TO EAT. I'M HUNGRY.

THE DINER'S JUST TWO CARS AWAY. HUNGRY, DIANA?
SORT OF.
4-25

GOOD~~HE LEFT THE PHONY CASE HERE!

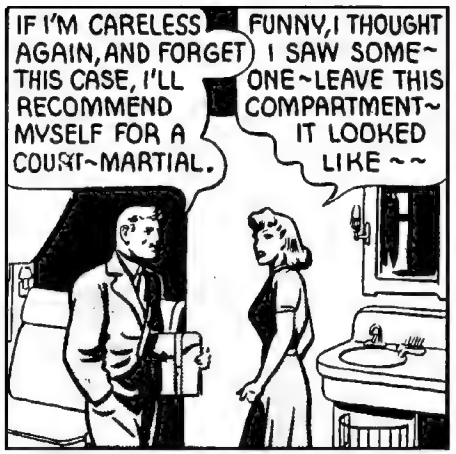
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
I'M MISSING SOMETHING ~~~ GOOD GOSH! THE CASE! I LEFT IT ON THE SEAT!

I'LL TAKE THE PHONY CASE WITH ME~~AND LEAVE THE REAL ONE HERE!
4-26

I OUGHTA HAVE MY HEAD EXAMINED~~ LEAVING THAT CASE ON THE SEAT!
DON'T BE SILLY, BYRON. NOBODY'S BOTHERED US SO FAR!

SEEING BYRON AND DIANA APPROACHING, THE PHANTOM HURRIEDLY DUCKS INTO A NEARBY COMPARTMENT.

THUS, BYRON RECOVERS THE REAL CASE, CONTAINING THE SECRET PAPERS~~WITHOUT EVER KNOWING THAT HE'D LOST IT!
~AH~~IT'S STILL HERE, THANK GOODNESS!
WHAT DID YOU EXPECT?


IF I'M CARELESS AGAIN, AND FORGET THIS CASE, I'LL RECOMMEND MYSELF FOR A COURT~MARTIAL.
FUNNY, I THOUGHT I SAW SOMEONE~LEAVE THIS COMPARTMENT~ IT LOOKED LIKE ~~

WHAT WERE YOU SAYING, DIANA?
NOTHING. JUST MY IMAGINATION.

THEY'VE GOT THE REAL CASE NOW. I'LL GET RID OF THIS PHONY CASE ~~AND THEN LOOK FOR THOSE TWO THUGS~~
4-27

HOLD EVERYTHING!
WE GOT YOU COVERED! HAND OVER THE CASE!

I'D LIKE TO LET YOU HAVE IT FOR SOCKING ME THE WAY YOU DID!
CAN THE TALK. LET'S LAM OUTA HERE!
4-28

WE'LL LOCK HIM IN HERE. THAT'LL GIVE US TIME TO STOP THE TRAIN AND GET AWAY WITH THE CASE.

GET READY TO JUMP, AS SOON AS THE TRAIN STOPS.
WAIT! LET'S HAVE A LOOK AT THIS CASE~ ~AND BE SURE THE PAPERS ARE IN IT!

HEY~~! THIS IS A PHONY CASE! THE ONE WE PLANTED ON BYRON!
WE BEEN ROBBED!

THAT'S THE REAL CASE.

THE LACK OF EXCITEMENT HASN'T AFFECTED YOUR APPETITE, DIANA.
NONSENSE. I'M EATING LIKE A BIRD.

I WAS ALL WORKED UP FOR SOME THRILLS~~SPIES, FIGHTS~~
SORRY TO DISAPPOINT YOU.

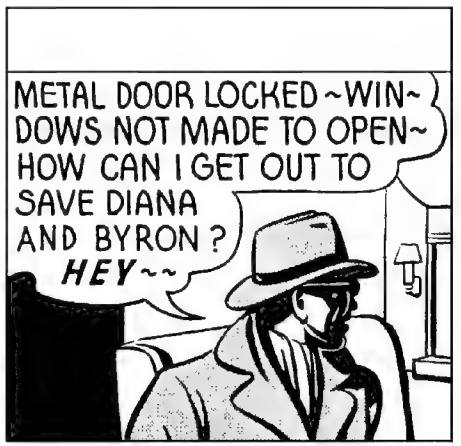
THE ONLY THRILL SO FAR WAS THAT THEY STILL HAD SOME ROAST BEEF IN THE DINER.
WHO COULD ASK FOR ANYTHING MORE?
4-29
CONT'D.

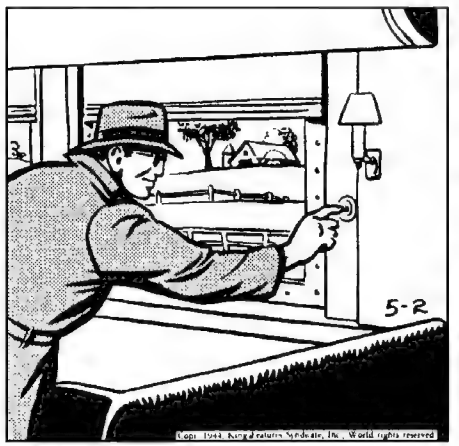
ON THE TRAIN~BYRON AND DIANA ARE UNAWARE OF THEIR DANGER~

HOLD IT, SLIM. SOMEBODY MIGHT COME. WE'LL PASS THRU A TUNNEL SOON
YEAH~ THAT'S THE TIME.

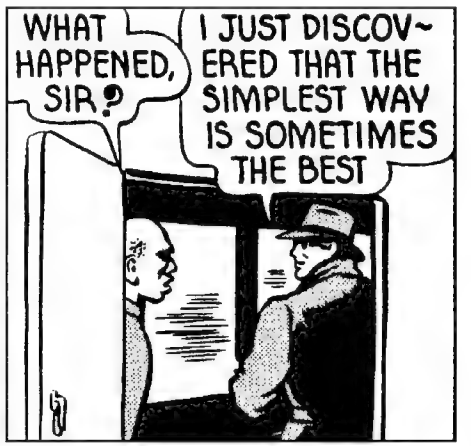
HMM~WINDOWS AREN'T MADE TO OPEN IN THIS AIR-CONDITIONED CAR!
MEANWHILE~

CAN'T BREAK THESE METAL DOORS! DIANA AND BYRON ARE IN DANGER! HOW CAN I GET OUT OF HERE?
5-1
TOMORROW~ BRILLIANT SOLUTION.


METAL DOOR LOCKED~WINDOWS NOT MADE TO OPEN~ HOW CAN I GET OUT TO SAVE DIANA AND BYRON? HEY~~


5-2

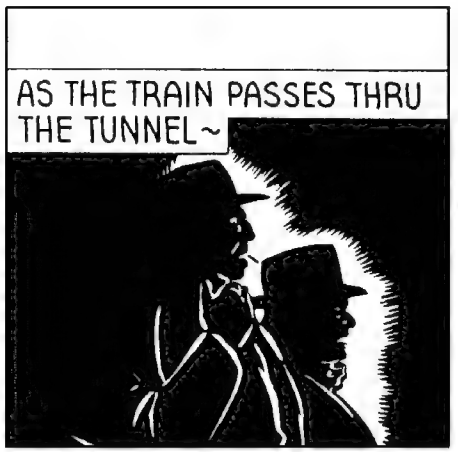
FUNNY~MUST BE LOCKED IN.


WHAT HAPPENED, SIR?
I JUST DISCOVERED THAT THE SIMPLEST WAY IS SOMETIMES THE BEST

HOW SOON IS THIS TUNNEL?
ANY MINUTE NOW, SLIM.

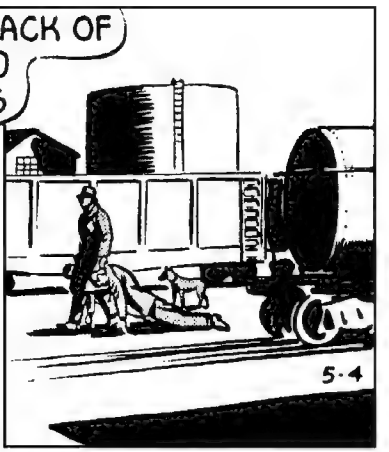
BE AT OUR STATION SOON.
AND NO HIDE NOR HAIR OF A SPY YET!
5-3

NOW, IN A SPY MOVIE, BYRON~ THIS IS WHEN THE SPIES WOULD ATTACK.
THAT'S RIGHT, DIANA. ONLY THIS ISN'T A SPY MOVIE.


AS THE TRAIN PASSES THRU THE TUNNEL~

MY, THAT WAS A LONG TUNNEL!
OUR TRIP'S ALMOST OVER.

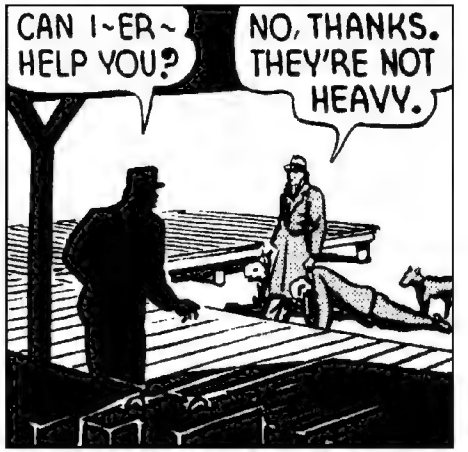
BYRON, I WAS JOKING ABOUT THE LACK OF EXCITEMENT. YOUR MISSION IS SO IMPORTANT, I'M GLAD EVERYTHING WENT WITHOUT A HITCH.


5-4

THE OFFICE IS CLOSE BY. WE CAN WALK IT.
5-5

THE SPY CHIEF, HIMSELF, HAS FLOWN TO MEET HIS AGENTS~
THEY'VE STILL GOT THE CASE!

ALL MY AGENTS HAVE FAILED~I'LL HAVE TO GET IT, MYSELF!


CAN I~ER~ HELP YOU?
NO, THANKS. THEY'RE NOT HEAVY.

THE SPY CHIEF TRAILS DIANA AND BYRON.
5-6

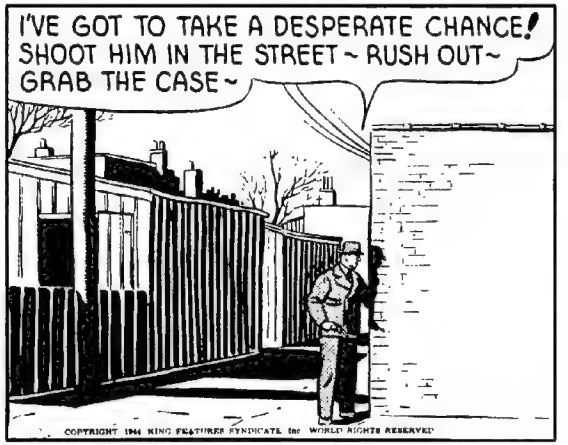
THERE THEY GO~ HMM~SOMEBODY TRAILING THEM!

MIND WATCHING THESE TWO? I DOUBT IF THEY'LL MOVE FOR A WHILE:

?!!
NEXT WEEK: OH, PROMISE ME.

ANOTHER BLOCK AND OUR MISSION WILL BE OVER, DIANA.
OH, BYRON, I'M GLAD EVERYTHING'S GONE SO WELL.

THE SPY CHIEF FOLLOWS THEM~
MY LAST CHANCE TO GET THAT CASE! HE'S DELIVERING IT NOW~
5·8


I'VE GOT TO TAKE A DESPERATE CHANCE! SHOOT HIM IN THE STREET~ RUSH OUT~ GRAB THE CASE~
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~AND THEN RUN FOR IT!

AS THE SPY CHIEF AIMS AT BYRON'S BACK~

HIS FINGER TIGHTENS ON THE TRIGGER~BUT HE DOESN'T QUITE MAKE IT!
UH!
5·9
COPYRIGHT 1944 KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc. WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED

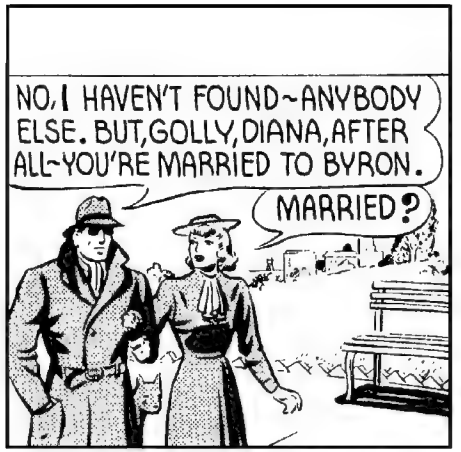
HE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT HIT HIM, "DEVIL".

HERE AT LAST, BYRON. I'M PROUD OF YOU.
NONSENSE, DIANA. NOBODY'S SAID "BOO" TO US.

GOOD WORK, CAPTAIN BYRON. I TRUST YOU KNOW THE RISK YOU TOOK, IF NOT THE CONTENTS OF THIS CASE.
5-10
THE ENEMY WOULD LIKE TO HAVE HAD THESE ORDERS ~ BUT YOU HAD NO TROUBLE, EH?
NONE AT ALL, SIR. NOTHING HAPPENED.
GOOD.
COPYRIGHT 1941, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE Inc WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED
HAVE A SEAT, CAPTAIN. WE HAVE A NEW ASSIGNMENT FOR YOU.
YES, SIR?
TOMORROW ~ THE PROMISE.
DIANA, I MUST LEAVE AT ONCE. AN OVERSEAS ASSIGNMENT.
OH, FOR HOW LONG?
I DON'T KNOW, DIANA ~ THE PHANTOM WILL NEVER RETURN. WHY WASTE YOUR LIFE WAITING? LET'S MARRY AT ONCE ~
I LIKE YOU LOTS, BYRON, BUT ~
I WON'T RUSH YOU, BUT YOU MIGHT MEET SOMEONE ELSE WHILE I'M GONE ~
AT LEAST, PROMISE ME YOU WON'T MARRY ANYONE ~ TIL I GET BACK.
I PROMISE, BYRON.
5-11

GEE, FEELS GOOD TO GET BACK INTO UNIFORM AGAIN. I'M AFRAID WE HAVE TO SAY GOODBYE, RIGHT HERE.
HOW ABOUT A GOODBYE KISS, DIANA?
GOOD LUCK, SOLDIER.
DON'T FORGET YOUR PROMISE.
I WON'T. GOODBYE.
5-12
UNSEEN, THE PHANTOM WATCHES SILENTLY, SADLY~
GOODBYE FROM US, TOO, DIANA.
BYRON'S A FINE MAN, BUT~~
THERE SHE GOES, "DEVIL". TAKE A LAST LOOK~THEN BACK TO THE DEEP WOODS.
"DEVIL"~ COME BACK~
5-13
"DEVIL"!
CONT'D.

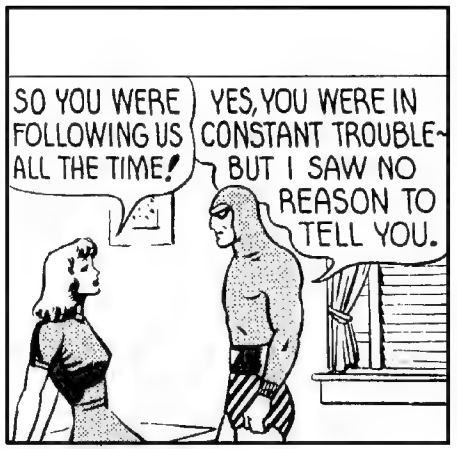
"DEVIL"! WHERE'D YOU COME FROM? WHERE IS HE?
5-15
I CAN'T LEAVE WITHOUT SEEING HER, NOW~
DARLING!
OH, I COULD DIE I'M SO HAPPY TO SEE YOU AGAIN.
IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN, DIANA ~~
WHERE DID YOU COME FROM? AND~
YOU DIDN'T EVEN KISS ME. AREN'T YOU GLAD TO~SEE ME ~?
OF COURSE~ BUT~THE WAY THINGS ARE ~I~
THE WAY WHAT THINGS ARE? HAVE YOU FOUND SOMEBODY ELSE?
5-16


NO, I HAVEN'T FOUND~ANYBODY ELSE. BUT, GOLLY, DIANA, AFTER ALL~YOU'RE MARRIED TO BYRON.
MARRIED?

I'M NOT MARRIED, DARLING. I ACCOMPANIED BYRON ON HIS MILITARY MISSION, BUT~THIS RING WAS JUST PRETENDING~

NOT MARRIED~!
OH, DARLING~I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU~SUCH A LONG TIME~

EVERYBODY IS HAPPY~ INCLUDING "DEVIL"!
5·17


SO YOU WERE FOLLOWING US ALL THE TIME!
YES, YOU WERE IN CONSTANT TROUBLE~ BUT I SAW NO REASON TO TELL YOU.

I WASN'T SURE WHAT THE GANG WAS UP TO~I SUSPECTED THEY WERE SPIES~I'VE LEFT THEM IN POLICE STATIONS ALL ACROSS THE COUNTRY~

AND ALL THE TIME, WHILE I WAS FRETTING AT THE LACK OF EX~ CITEMENT, YOU WERE FIGHTING~! DARLING, WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL US~?
5·18

MAYBE I SHOULD HAVE WARNED YOU, BUT I HATED TO HAVE YOU WORRY~
DARLING, YOU TREAT ME LIKE A BABY~BUT MAYBE I LIKE IT~

WE'VE CORNERED ONE OF THE BIGGEST SPY RINGS IN THE COUNTRY, THANKS TO YOU.
THE PLEASURE'S ALL MINE, SIR

AND NOW, DIANA~ LET'S GET MARRIED, QUICK~
OH, GEE~

I'D LOVE TO~TO PUT IT MILDLY~ BUT I'M IN A SPOT~

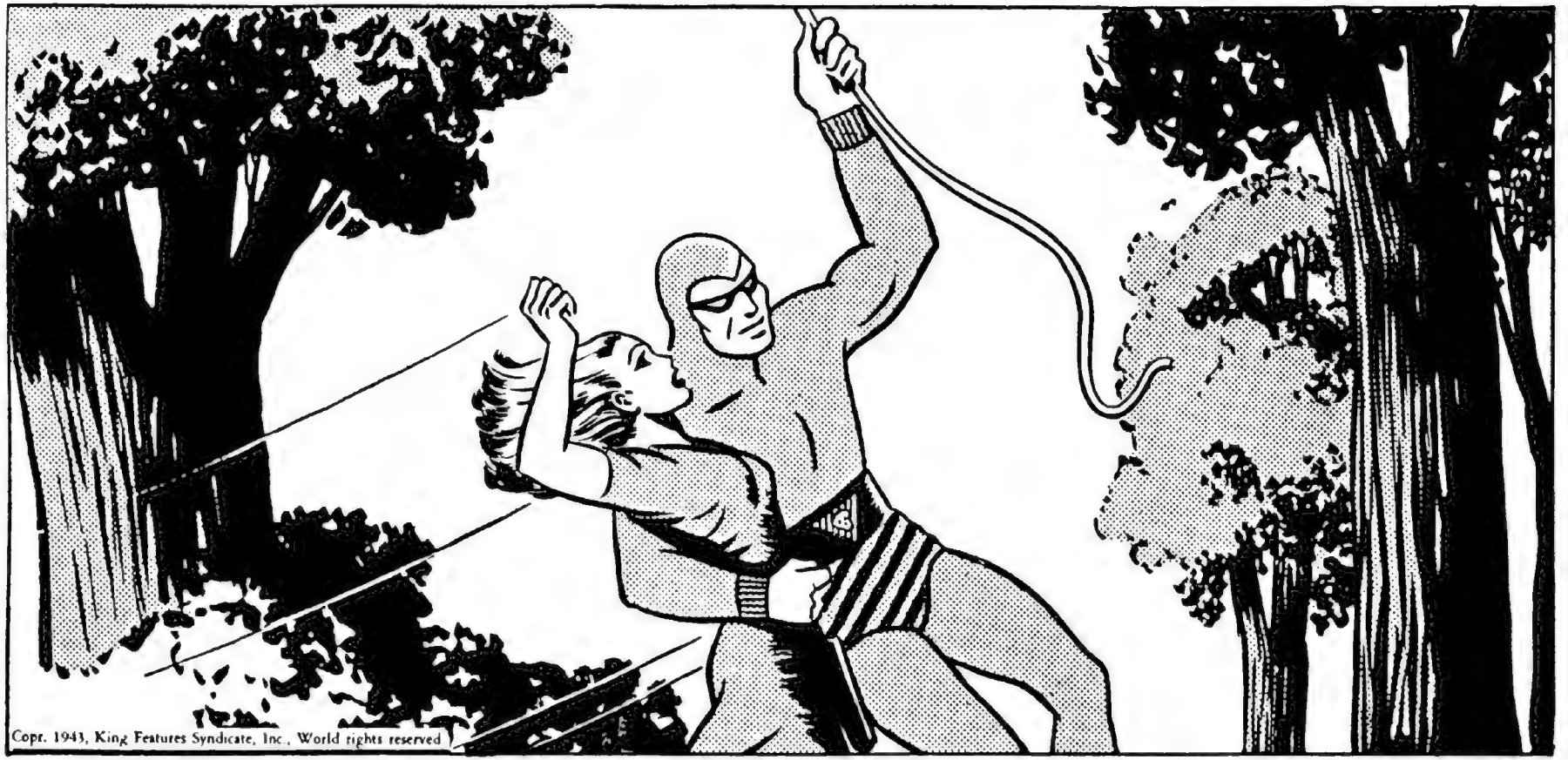
I PROMISED BYRON I WOULDN'T MARRY UNTIL HE RETURNED.
WHAT'S HE GOT TO DO WITH IT?
5-19

I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D EVER COME BACK. BYRON ASKED ME TO MARRY HIM~I DIDN'T WANT TO~
5-20

HE WAS AFRAID I'D MEET SOMEBODY ELSE, SO I PROMISED NOT TO MARRY UNTIL HE RETURNED. MAYBE I'M SILLY, BUT~~

~YOU KNOW HOW IT IS. A FELLOW, GOING OVERSEAS, THEN COMES BACK, FINDS THE GIRL MARRIED. IT'S SORT OF TOUGH ON HIM.

BUT WE CAN BE TOGETHER UNTIL HE RETURNS AND THEN HE CAN BE OUR BEST MAN!
THAT'S GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME, DIANA.
BEGINNING NEXT WEEK:
THE CROONER!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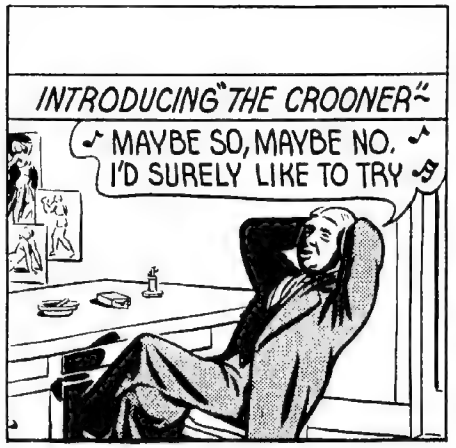
Chapter Five: The Crooner

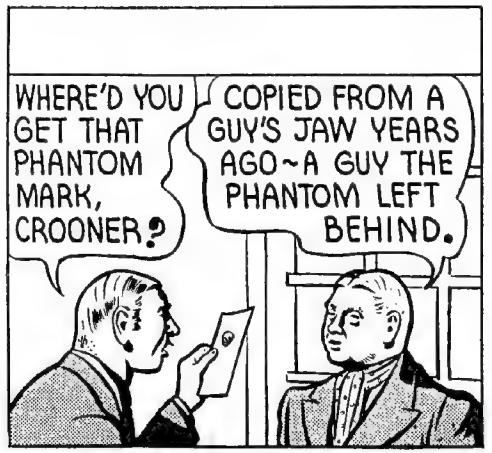
the PHANTOM®


INTRODUCING "THE CROONER"
MAYBE SO, MAYBE NO. I'D SURELY LIKE TO TRY

THE CROONER'S UP TO SOME~THING, WAXY.
YEAH. IN CONFERENCE WITH HIMSELF, HATCHING AN IDEA.

WAXY, I'VE GOT IT!
GOT WHAT?
5-22

KNOW WHAT THIS IS?
WHO DON'T? ~IT'S THE PHANTOM'S MARK. WHAT YOU COOKING UP, CROONER?


WHERE'D YOU GET THAT PHANTOM MARK, CROONER?
COPIED FROM A GUY'S JAW YEARS AGO~A GUY THE PHANTOM LEFT BEHIND.

YOU KNOW, WAXY, I LIKE NICE, SOFT RACKETS.
SURE, CROONER, THAT'S YOU ALL OVER.

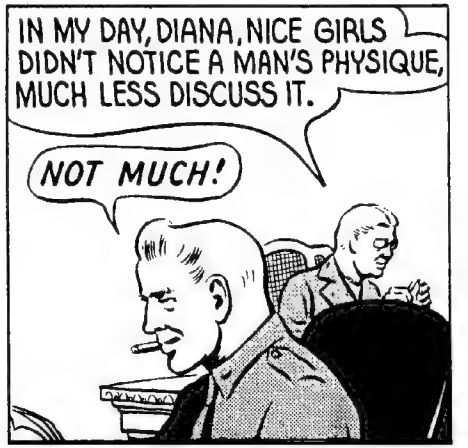
CHEE! A RING WITH A SKULL ON IT! WHERE'D YOU GET THAT?
HAD IT MADE.
5-23

WHAT'S THE SOFT RACKET, CROONER? I DON'T GET IT!
YOU WILL, WAXY, YOU WILL!

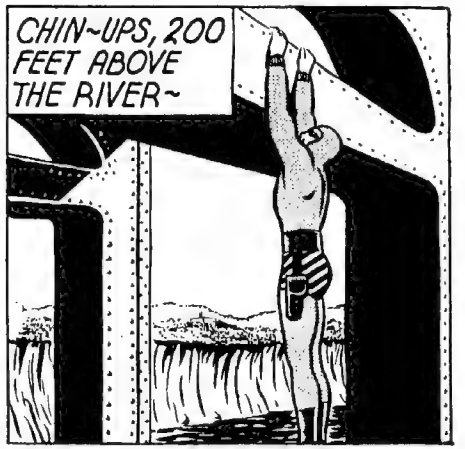
THE PHANTOM HAS BEEN VISITING DIANA AT HER UNCLE DAVE'S HOUSE.
WHERE'D HE GO, DIANA?
OUT FOR A WORKOUT, I THINK.

LANDSAKES, HE WAS PACING UP AND DOWN IN HERE LIKE A POLAR BEAR IN THE ZOO.
5-24

HE NEEDS EXERCISE, MAMA. HOW ELSE COULD HE DEVELOP SUCH A MARVELOUS PHYSIQUE?


IN MY DAY, DIANA, NICE GIRLS DIDN'T NOTICE A MAN'S PHYSIQUE, MUCH LESS DISCUSS IT.
NOT MUCH!

THAT FIVE-MILE SWIM FRESHENED ME UP-NOW FOR SOME REAL EXERCISE.
5-25


CHIN-UPS, 200 FEET ABOVE THE RIVER-

THEN A TEN-MILE RUN-

MEANWHILE-IN A CERTAIN GANG HIDEOUT.
WE SEEN DE PHANTOM-HE'S IN DE WOODS, KNOCKIN' HIMSELF OUT!
GOOD! NOW IS THE TIME TO PULL OUR JOB!

RAN FARTHER THAN I INTENDED TO, "DEVIL". WE'D BETTER GET HOME.
5 26

IN TOWN, A WATCHMAN MAKES HIS ROUNDS.
ALL QUIET.

♪ LAY THAT PISTOL DOWN, YOU, LAY THAT PISTOL DOWN! ♫
???

AND ALL BLAME WILL BE LAID ON THE PHANTOM.
WHAT'S UP?

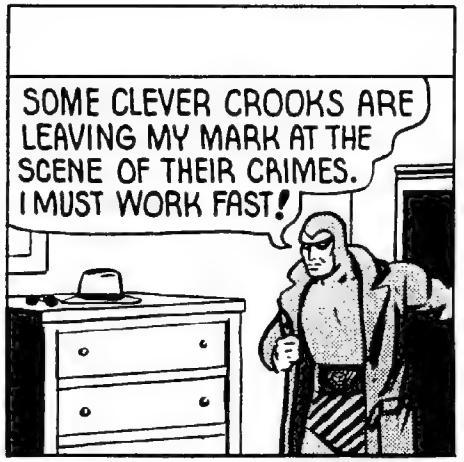
NICE HAUL~ NOW LET'S GET OUT OF HERE, CROONER.
NOT TILL I LEAVE SOMETHING!

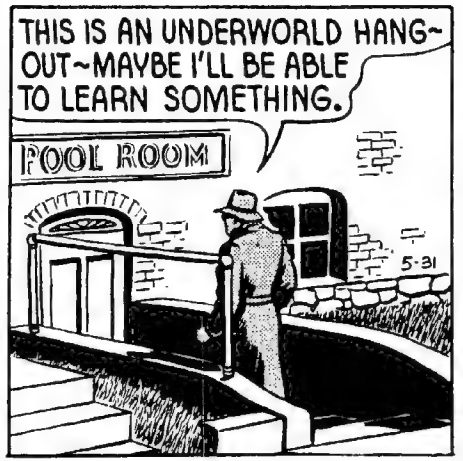
♪ I'LL GIVE YOU SOMETHING ♪ TO REMEMBER ME BY! ♫

SHORTLY AFTERWARD, A POLICEMAN FINDS THE WATCHMAN~

WITH A SKULL MARK~APPARENTLY THE PHANTOM'S SIGNATURE~ ON HIS FOREHEAD!
CONT'D.

THE PHANTOM SHOULD BE THRU WITH HIS WORKOUT NOW~ I'LL WALK TO MEET HIM.
5·29
WHAT HAPPENED HERE?
BURGLARY, LADY.
AND LOOK WHO DID IT!
THE SIGN OF THE PHANTOM!
I MUST FIND HIM, AND WARN HIM THAT HE'S BEING FRAMED!
DARLING! DARLING! SOMETHING AWFUL HAS HAPPENED!
5·30
~AND THE POLICE THINK YOU DID IT.
SOME CROOK'S FIGURED OUT A NEW ANGLE!
YOU WERE ALONE ~ YOU HAVE NO ALIBI.
NO,~UNTIL I LEARN WHO REALLY DID IT.
TOMORROW: THE SEARCH.


SOME CLEVER CROOKS ARE LEAVING MY MARK AT THE SCENE OF THEIR CRIMES. I MUST WORK FAST!

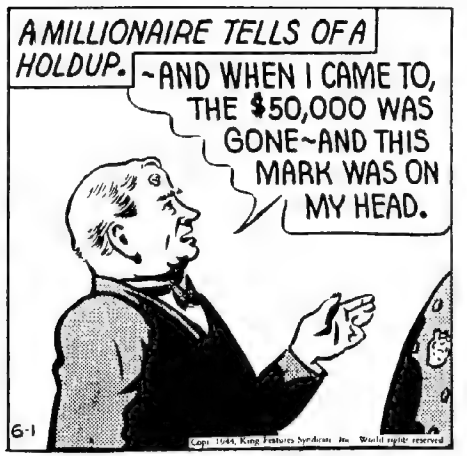

THIS IS AN UNDERWORLD HANG-OUT~MAYBE I'LL BE ABLE TO LEARN SOMETHING.
POOL ROOM
5-31

WHO'S RUNNING THE SCARLET GANG SINCE SNAKEYE WAS BUMPED OFF?
GUY CALLED THE CROONER~ REALLY KNOWS HIS STUFF.

THE CROONER? TELL ME ABOUT HIM.
THIS PLACE IS TOO PUBLIC.

DIDJA HEAR ABOUT THE LATEST JOB THE CROONER PULLED?

AS "MR. WALKER" INVESTIGATES, THE CRIMES CONTINUE.
THEY GOT AWAY~ BUT THEY LEFT THE SIGN OF THE PHANTOM!

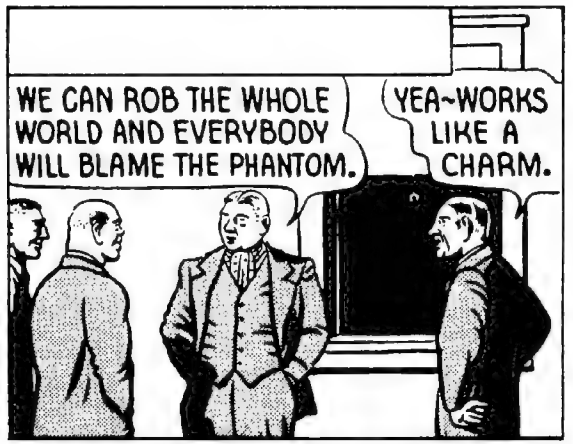

A MILLIONAIRE TELLS OF A HOLDUP.
~AND WHEN I CAME TO, THE $50,000 WAS GONE~AND THIS MARK WAS ON MY HEAD.
6-1

HEADLINES PROCLAIM--
EXTRA
PHANTOM STEALS PAYROLL
TOMORROW: THE PHONY~ IN PERSON!

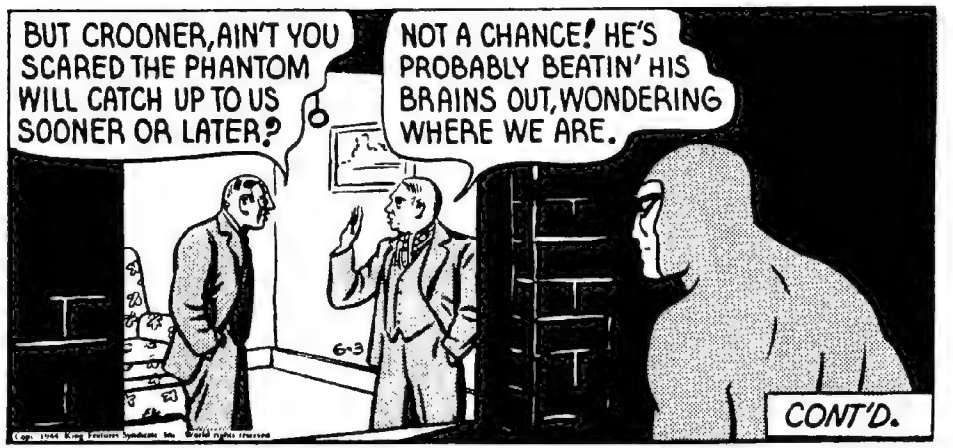
THE CROONER GLOATS OVER HIS LOOT.
♪ WE'RE IN THE MONEY! WE'RE IN THE MONEY! ♪
GOT TO HAND IT TO YOU, CROONER!

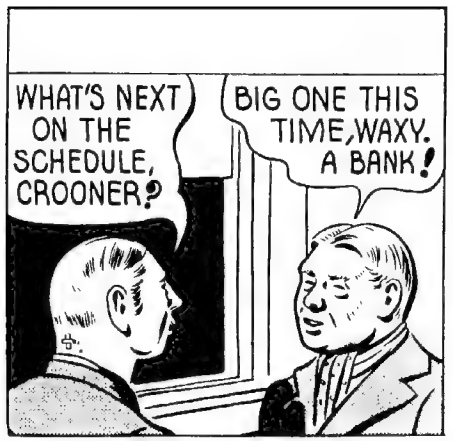
STICK WITH ME, BOYS, AND WE'LL ALL BE MILLIONAIRES.
6-2

AND THANKS TO THIS SKULL RING, EVERY JOB WILL BE BLAMED ON THE PHANTOM!


WE CAN ROB THE WHOLE WORLD AND EVERYBODY WILL BLAME THE PHANTOM.
YEA~WORKS LIKE A CHARM.

~AS LONG AS WE MAKE HIS SIGN WITH MY SKULL RING.


BUT CROONER, AIN'T YOU SCARED THE PHANTOM WILL CATCH UP TO US SOONER OR LATER?
NOT A CHANCE! HE'S PROBABLY BEATIN' HIS BRAINS OUT, WONDERING WHERE WE ARE.
6-3
CONT'D.


WHAT'S NEXT ON THE SCHEDULE, CROONER?
BIG ONE THIS TIME, WAXY. A BANK!

THE CROONER'S GANG IS USING THE PHANTOM'S MARK TO COVER THEIR CRIMES!
THE PHANTOM IS STILL AT LARGE~
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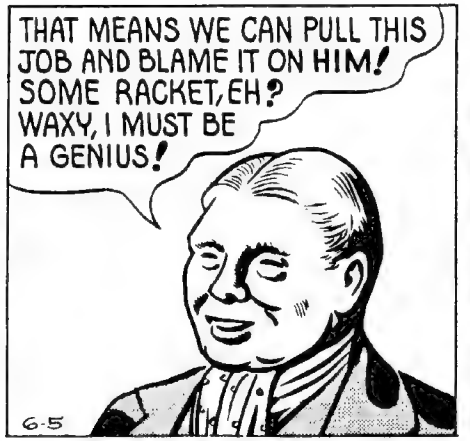
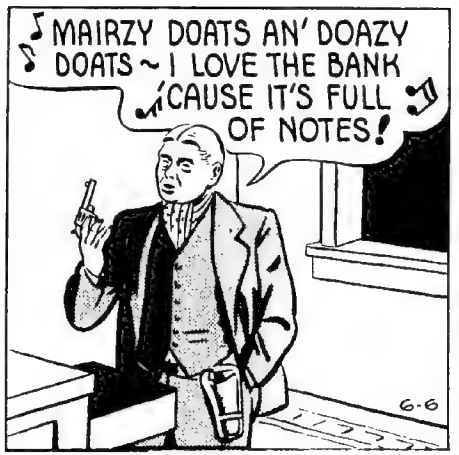
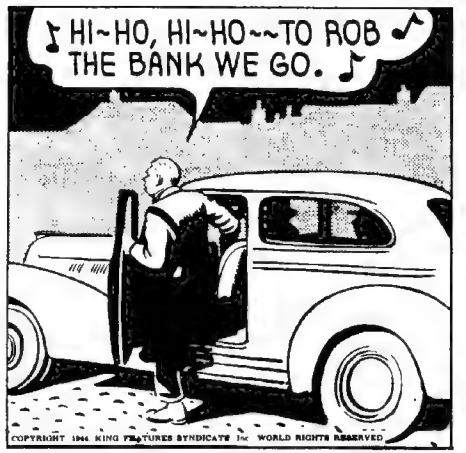

THAT MEANS WE CAN PULL THIS JOB AND BLAME IT ON HIM! SOME RACKET, EH? WAXY, I MUST BE A GENIUS!
6-5

SO THIS IS THE GANG!

HERE'S THE NATIONAL BANK LAY-OUT~~WAXY WILL DISCONNECT THE BURGLAR ALARM.


MAIRZY DOATS AN' DOAZY DOATS ~ I LOVE THE BANK 'CAUSE IT'S FULL OF NOTES!
6-6


HI~HO, HI~HO~~TO ROB THE BANK WE GO.
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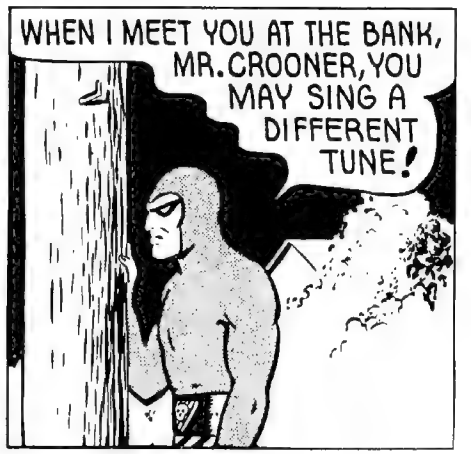

WHEN I MEET YOU AT THE BANK, MR. CROONER, YOU MAY SING A DIFFERENT TUNE!

THE CROONER'S CAR STOPS BEFORE REACHING THE BANK!
FF
HEY, YOU!
COPYRIGHT 1944 KING FEATURES SYNDICATE Inc WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED
GOT TWO NICKELS FOR A DIME?
SURE. HERE.
6-7
THANKS.
DON'T MENTION IT!
TOMORROW- THE TIPOFF!
PERHAPS I CAN CATCH WHAT HE SAYS.
6-8
DISGUISING HIS VOICE WITH A HANDKERCHIEF.
POLICE HEADQUARTERS, QUICK!
COPYRIGHT 1944 KING FEATURES SYNDICATE Inc WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED
WHAT? SAY THAT AGAIN!
I SAID, I CAN TELL YOU WHERE THE PHANTOM'S PULLING A JOB TONIGHT!

THE PHANTOM PLANS TO STEAL A $100,000 PAINTING FROM THE ART MUSEUM.

IF WE CATCH HIM, I'LL GET A PROMOTION.

DUMB POLICE! THEY'LL GO ACROSS TOWN TO THE MUSEUM, WHILE WE WORK SAFELY HERE!
6-9

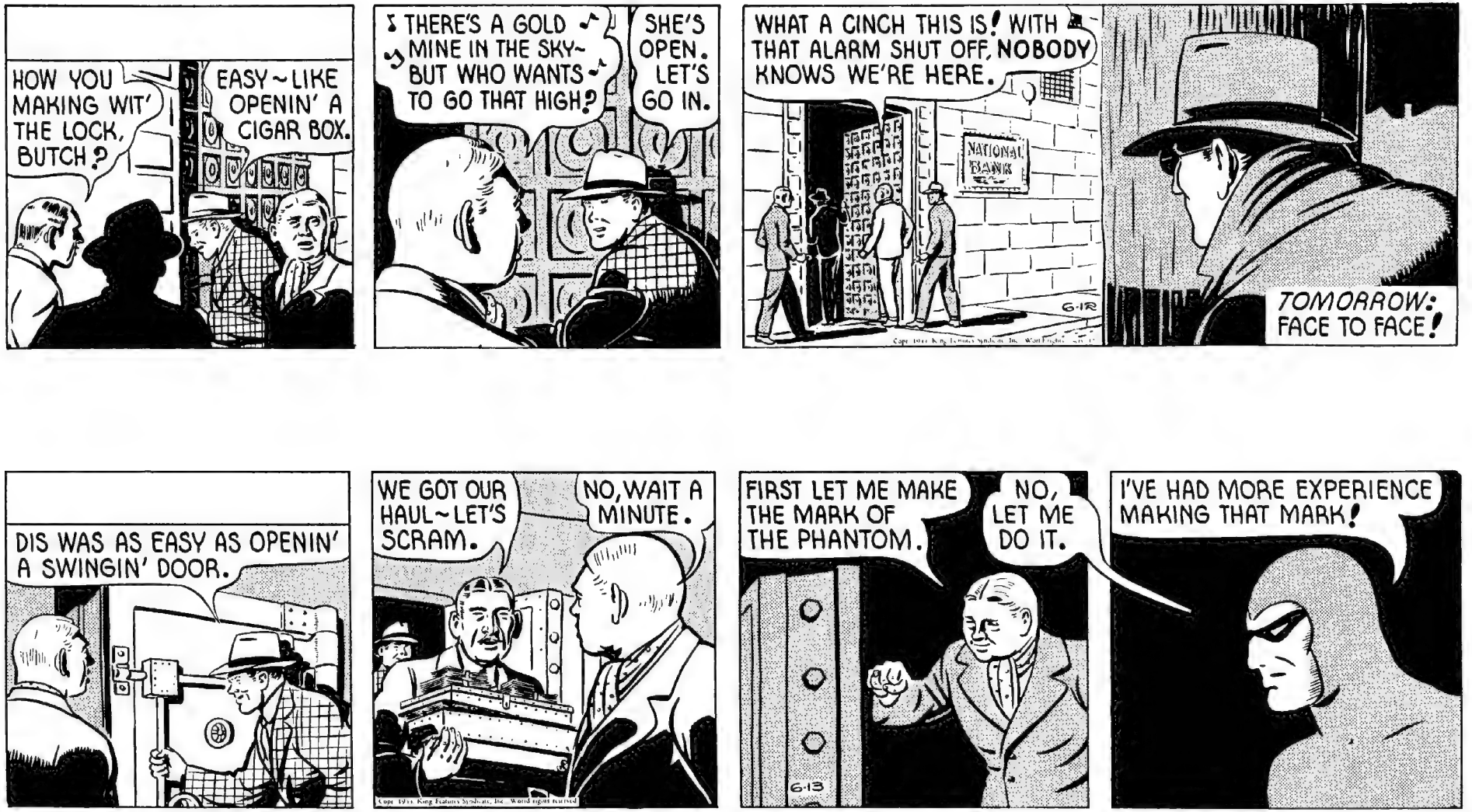
I WONDER WHERE THE PHANTOM REALLY IS?
TOMORROW: BANK NIGHT

♪ HAPPY DAYS ♪ ARE HERE AGAIN.
BANK
PIPE DOWN, CROONER. THERE'S A COP ON THIS BEAT.

NEVER MIND MY CROONING~ WHAT WE'VE GOT TO DO IS SILENCE THAT ALARM.

CAREFUL YOU DON'T TURN IT ON INSTEAD OF OFF.

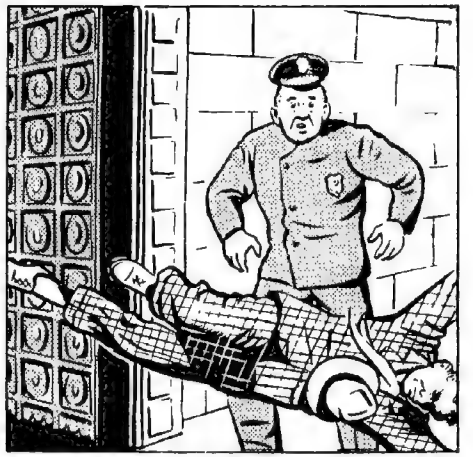
WAIT'LL THE COPS FIND THE PHANTOM'S MARK ON THIS JOB! THEY'LL GO CRAZY!
6-10
CONT.D

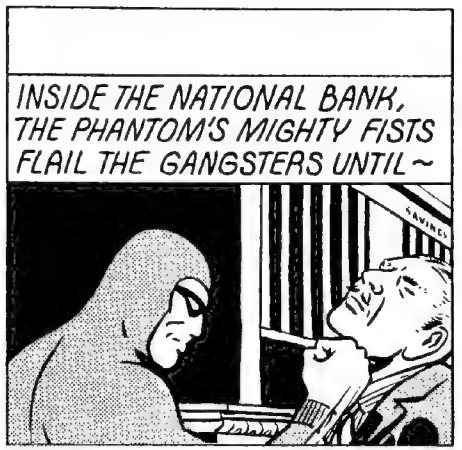

HOW YOU MAKING WIT' THE LOCK, BUTCH?
EASY~LIKE OPENIN' A CIGAR BOX.
THERE'S A GOLD MINE IN THE SKY~ BUT WHO WANTS TO GO THAT HIGH?
SHE'S OPEN. LET'S GO IN.
WHAT A CINCH THIS IS! WITH THAT ALARM SHUT OFF, NOBODY KNOWS WE'RE HERE.
NATIONAL BANK
6-12
TOMORROW: FACE TO FACE!
DIS WAS AS EASY AS OPENIN' A SWINGIN' DOOR.
WE GOT OUR HAUL~LET'S SCRAM.
NO, WAIT A MINUTE.
FIRST LET ME MAKE THE MARK OF THE PHANTOM.
NO, LET ME DO IT.
6-13
I'VE HAD MORE EXPERIENCE MAKING THAT MARK!

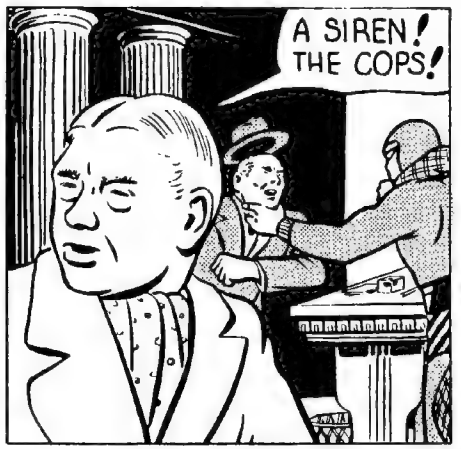
I'LL START BY LEAVING MY MARK ON YOU~PHONY!

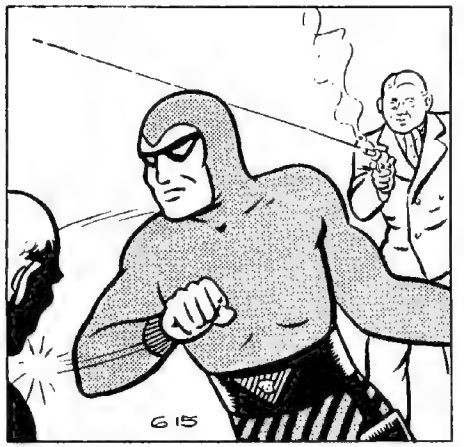
I'M NOT STINGY~ YOU FELLOWS GET MARKS,TOO.
SAVINGS

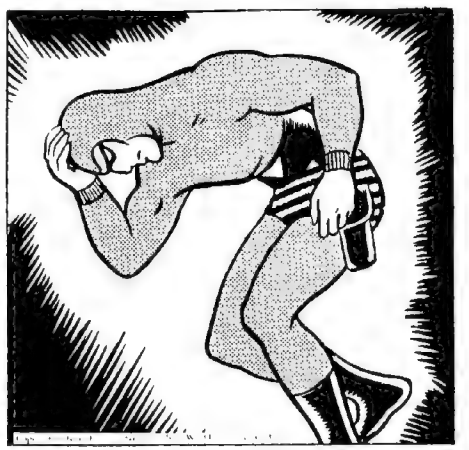
SURE AN' A PEACEFUL NIGHT IT TIZ,IT TIZ!
6-14




INSIDE THE NATIONAL BANK, THE PHANTOM'S MIGHTY FISTS FLAIL THE GANGSTERS UNTIL~

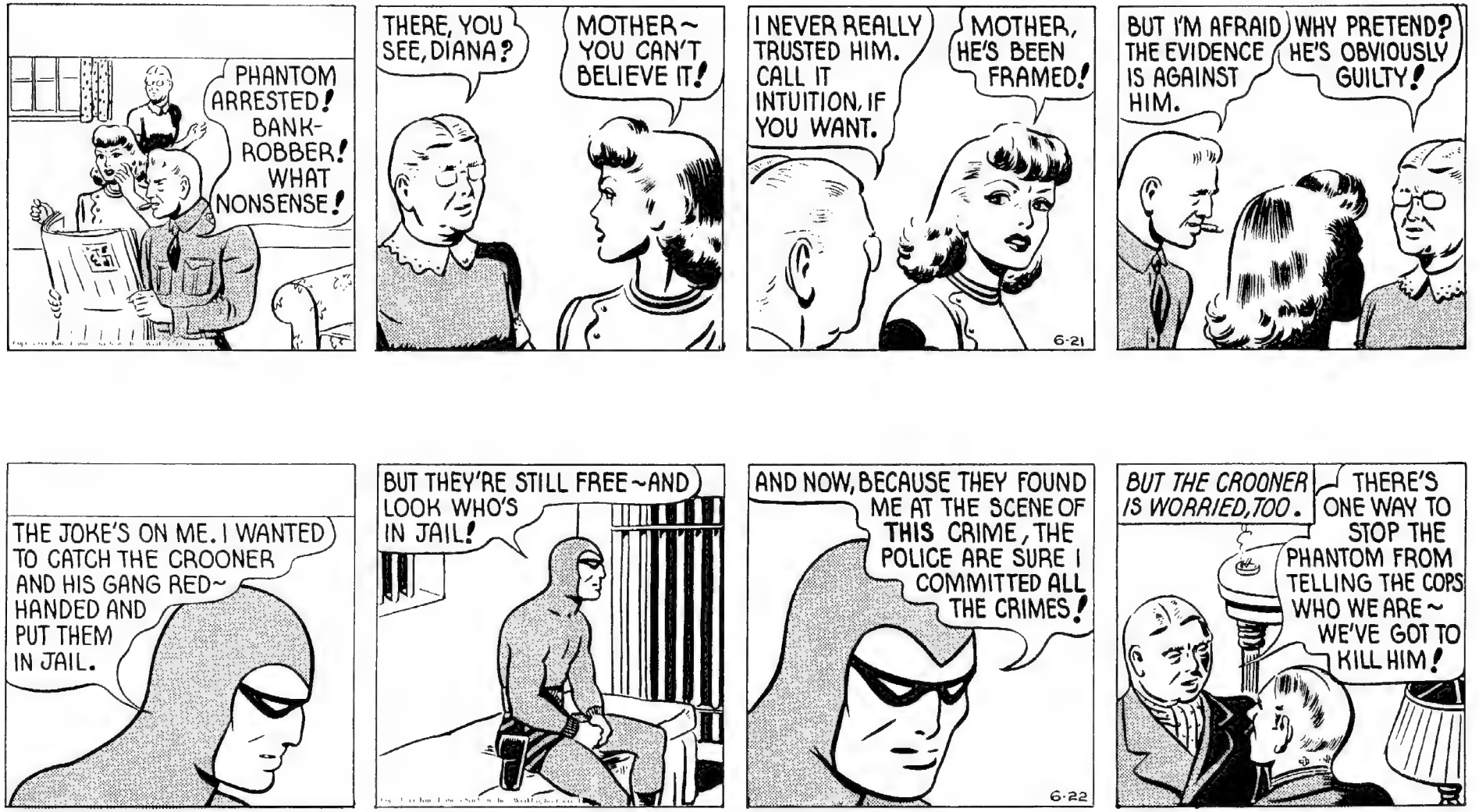

A SIREN! THE COPS!


6-15



GUNS READY, MEN. AND IF NECESSARY~ SHOOT TO KILL!
YOU MEN COVER THE REAR~ WE'LL GO IN THE FRONT.
6-16
ALL RIGHT, YOU IN THERE! COME OUT WITH YOUR HANDS UP ~ OR WE'LL COME IN ~ SHOOTING!
BUT THE POLICE OFFICER GETS NO ANSWER~
MY HEAD! A FRACTION OF AN INCH CLOSER~ WOULD HAVE BEEN CURTAINS~
COME OUT OR WE'LL SHOOT!
THE PHANTOM IS DAZED FROM A HEAD WOUND.
6-17
ALL RIGHT! WE'RE COMING AFTER YOU!
A MOMENT LATER ~
NOBODY HERE! HMM~BLOOD~ON THE FLOOR~
CONT'D.

LOOK! SKULL MARK! IT'S THE PHANTOM'S ALL RIGHT.
HE MUST BE A REAL SPOOK.
YOU STAY HERE, RILEY, WHILE WE SCOUT AROUND OUTSIDE.
YES, SIR.
WHAT I'D GIVE TO LAY HANDS ON THAT BIRD!
ME, TOO, BUT HE'S PROBABLY A MILLION MILES AWAY.
SAVINGS
6-19
WELL, BOYS, LET'S GET BACK TO HEADQUARTERS.
YEAH~PHANTOM MADE ANOTHER CLEAN BREAK!
THE PHANTOM, DAZED BY A HEAD WOUND, TRIES TO MOVE ~AND FAINTS~
SAVINGS
SAVINGS
6-20
POLICE NAB PHANTOM
COP CITED FOR BRAVERY IN BRILLIANT CAPTURE


PHANTOM ARRESTED! BANK-ROBBER! WHAT NONSENSE!
THERE, YOU SEE, DIANA?
MOTHER~ YOU CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
I NEVER REALLY TRUSTED HIM. CALL IT INTUITION, IF YOU WANT.
MOTHER, HE'S BEEN FRAMED!
6-21
BUT I'M AFRAID THE EVIDENCE IS AGAINST HIM.
WHY PRETEND? HE'S OBVIOUSLY GUILTY!
THE JOKE'S ON ME. I WANTED TO CATCH THE CROONER AND HIS GANG RED~ HANDED AND PUT THEM IN JAIL.
BUT THEY'RE STILL FREE~AND LOOK WHO'S IN JAIL!
AND NOW, BECAUSE THEY FOUND ME AT THE SCENE OF THIS CRIME, THE POLICE ARE SURE I COMMITTED ALL THE CRIMES!
6-22
BUT THE CROONER IS WORRIED, TOO.
THERE'S ONE WAY TO STOP THE PHANTOM FROM TELLING THE COPS WHO WE ARE~ WE'VE GOT TO KILL HIM!

SOME DAME WANTS TO SEE THE PHANTOM. SHE'S QUITE A LOOKER!
OKAY, BUT KEEP AN EYE ON 'EM~
6·23

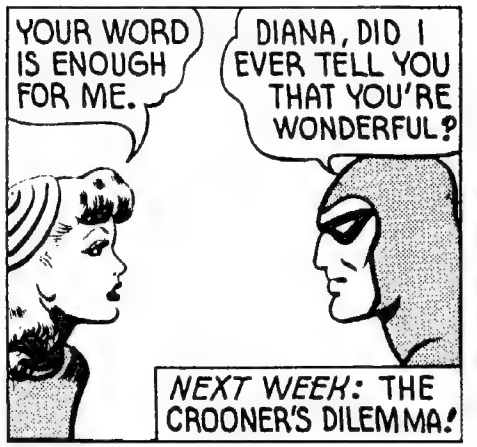
A VISITOR FOR YOU, BUB.

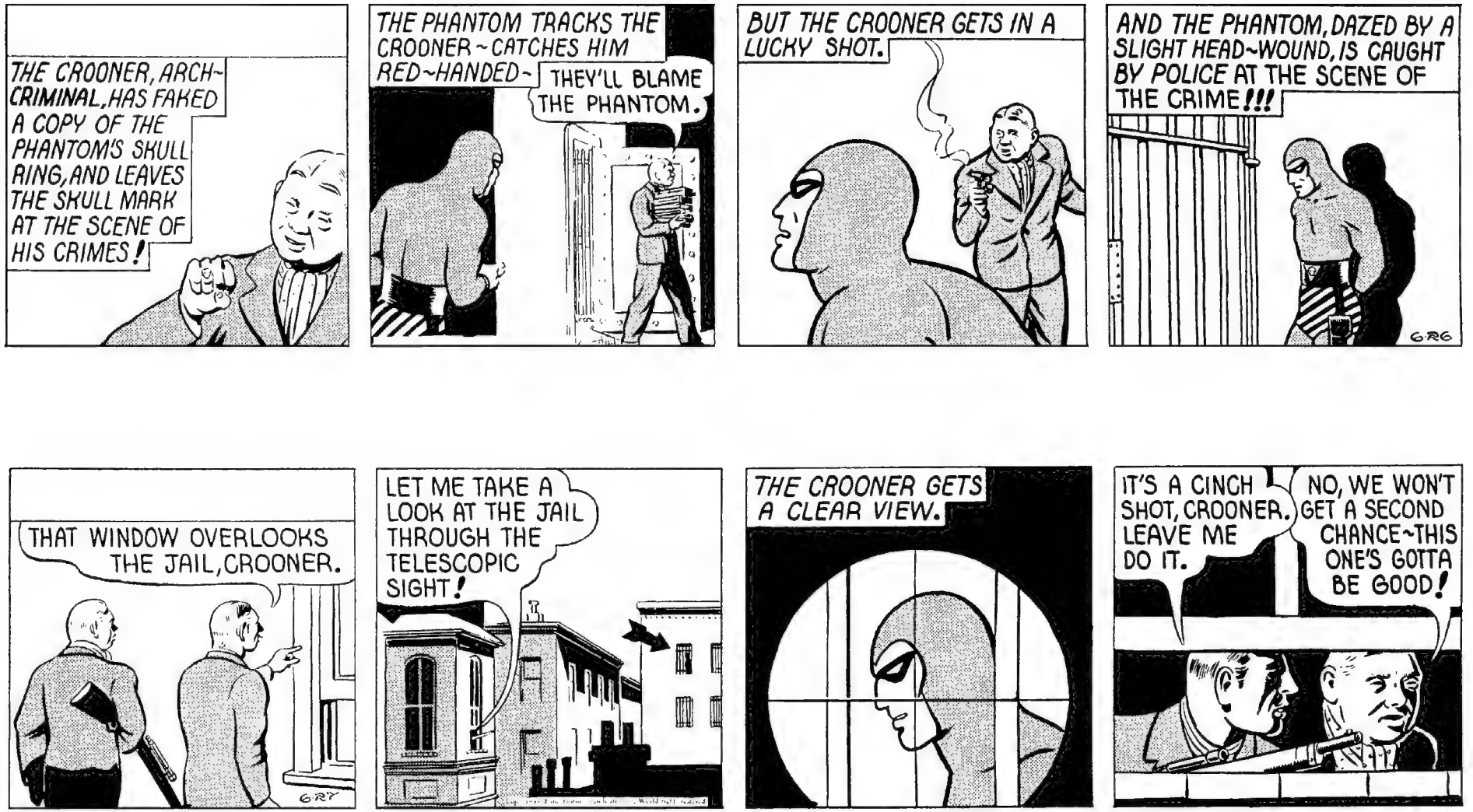
DIANA~
DARLING, THEY CAN'T DO THIS TO YOU!
THAT'S WHAT THEY ALWAYS SAY.

THIS IS HORRIBLE! DO YOU KNOW WHO FRAMED YOU?
YES. THEY'VE DONE A GOOD JOB OF IT, TOO.

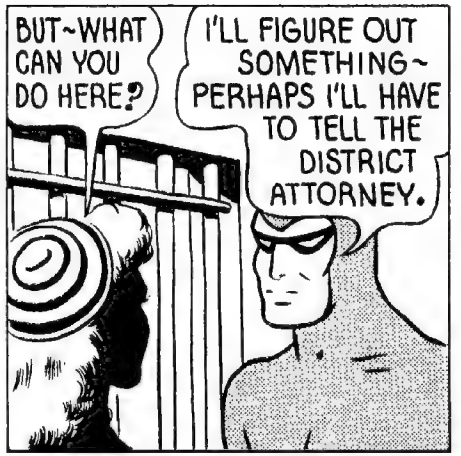
TELL ME~ MAYBE I CAN HELP YOU!
NO. IF THEY THOUGHT YOU KNEW, THEY'D KILL YOU!
6·24

I'VE GOT TO PROVE YOUR INNOCENCE. MOTHER THINKS YOU'RE GUILTY AND~~
FOR ALL YOU KNOW I AM. YOU WEREN'T THERE.


YOUR WORD IS ENOUGH FOR ME.
DIANA, DID I EVER TELL YOU THAT YOU'RE WONDERFUL?
NEXT WEEK: THE CROONER'S DILEMMA!


THE CROONER, ARCH-CRIMINAL, HAS FAKED A COPY OF THE PHANTOM'S SKULL RING, AND LEAVES THE SKULL MARK AT THE SCENE OF HIS CRIMES!
THE PHANTOM TRACKS THE CROONER ~ CATCHES HIM RED~HANDED~
THEY'LL BLAME THE PHANTOM.
BUT THE CROONER GETS IN A LUCKY SHOT.
AND THE PHANTOM, DAZED BY A SLIGHT HEAD~WOUND, IS CAUGHT BY POLICE AT THE SCENE OF THE CRIME!!!
THAT WINDOW OVERLOOKS THE JAIL, CROONER.
LET ME TAKE A LOOK AT THE JAIL THROUGH THE TELESCOPIC SIGHT!
THE CROONER GETS A CLEAR VIEW.
IT'S A CINCH SHOT, CROONER. LEAVE ME DO IT.
NO, WE WON'T GET A SECOND CHANCE~THIS ONE'S GOTTA BE GOOD!

PLEASE TELL ME WHO THE FAKE PHANTOM IS~SO I CAN HELP YOU.
I MUST HANDLE THIS BY MYSELF, DIANA. I WON'T LET YOU BE INVOLVED.


BUT~WHAT CAN YOU DO HERE?
I'LL FIGURE OUT SOMETHING~ PERHAPS I'LL HAVE TO TELL THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY.

WAIT, CROONER! I JUST THUNK OF SOMETHIN'!
WHAT?

IF YOU KILL THE PHANTOM, WE WON'T HAVE ANYBODY TO PIN OUR CRIMES ON~ WE'LL HAVE TO RETIRE.
6-28

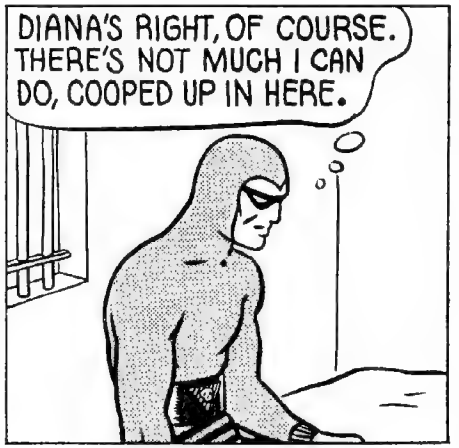
WHEN WE KILL THE PHANTOM, WE KILL OUR ALIBI.
THAT'S RIGHT, BUT~

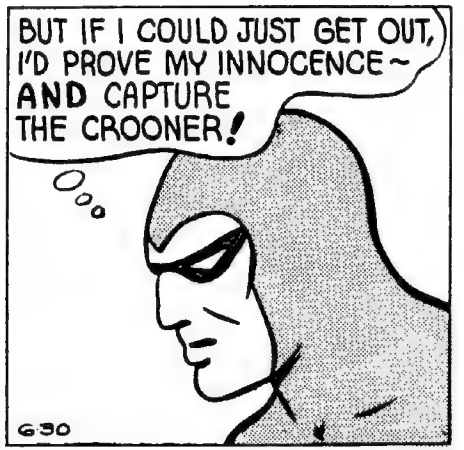
~AS LONG AS HE'S IN JAIL, HE ISN'T ANY USE TO US AS AN ALIBI, EITHER~

~AND THERE'S STILL THE DANGER HE'LL TELL THE COPS ABOUT US~
I GOT AN IDEA.

LET US SPRING THE PHANTOM OUT OF JAIL!
6-29

TIME'S UP, LADY.
GOODBYE.
SO LONG, DIANA. DON'T WORRY.


DIANA'S RIGHT, OF COURSE. THERE'S NOT MUCH I CAN DO, COOPED UP IN HERE.


BUT IF I COULD JUST GET OUT, I'D PROVE MY INNOCENCE~ AND CAPTURE THE CROONER!
630

OK, CROONER. FOR ONE "G" I'LL BUST OPEN THAT CHEESE BOX. WHO DO YOU WANT SPRUNG?
THE PHANTOM.

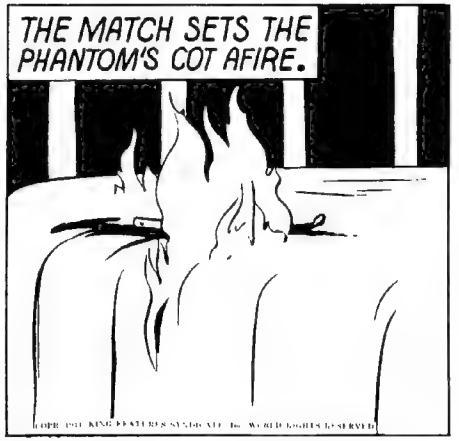
OFFISHER, COULD YOU (HIC)~SHAY COULD~
BUDDY, FOR YOUR OWN GOOD, I'LL LOCK YOU UP TILL YOU GET SOBER.

THE CROONER'S GANG PLANS TO RELEASE THE PHANTOM.
MARCH ALONG!
BUT (HIC) I DON'T LIKE THISH HOTEL. HEY~ LOOKIT HIM!

HE'S WEARIN' BLACK UNDIES. SHAY, BUDDY, WHYN'T YOU PUT SOME CLOSHE ON?

COME ON, YOU!
SHO LONG, PAL.
?
CONT'D.

THE PHANTOM DOESN'T NOTICE A LITTLE "PRESENT" THAT LOCKY TOSSES INTO HIS CELL.

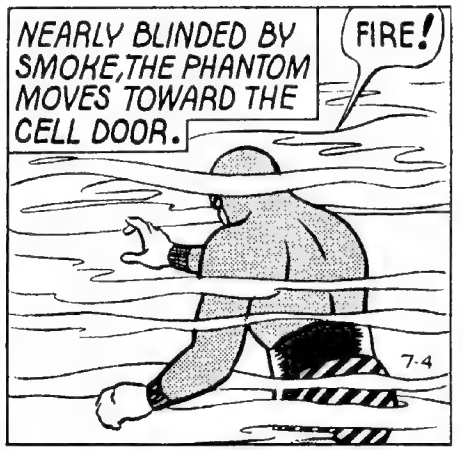

THE MATCH SETS THE PHANTOM'S COT AFIRE.

I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE, SOMEHOW. HEY~!

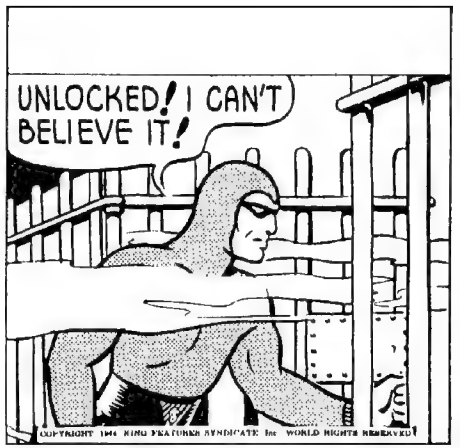
MY BUNK~ ON FIRE!
7-3

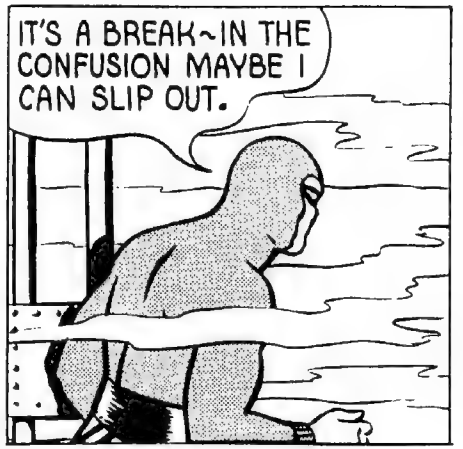
HIS BUNK AFIRE, THE PHANTOM TRIES TO BEAT OUT THE FLAMES.

IT'S GOT TOO GOOD A START.


NEARLY BLINDED BY SMOKE, THE PHANTOM MOVES TOWARD THE CELL DOOR.
FIRE!
7-4

UNKNOWN TO THE PHANTOM, THE CROONER'S PLAN TO "SPRING" HIM FROM JAIL IS WORKING PERFECTLY!
UNLOCKED!


UNLOCKED! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!


IT'S A BREAK~IN THE CONFUSION MAYBE I CAN SLIP OUT.

I'VE STILL GOT TO GET THROUGH THE OUTSIDE DOOR.
7-5

FIRE! FIRE!

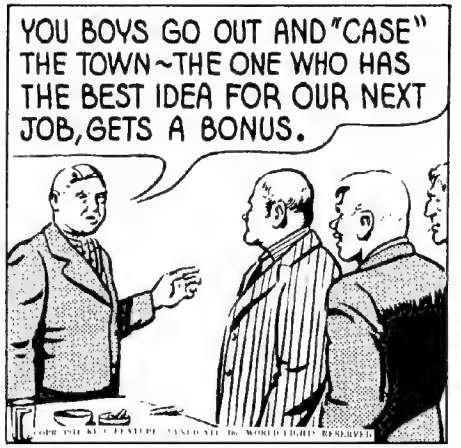
FIRE! FIRE! LET US OUT! FIRE!

~FIRE IN THE CELL BLOCK!

HURRY, JOE, BEFORE THERE'S A PANIC!

THE EXCITED GUARDS RUSH THROUGH, AND A DARK-CLAD FIGURE SLIPS QUIETLY OUT THE DOOR.
7-6

WE JUST GOT WORD~THE PHANTOM'S BUSTED OUT OF JAIL.
GOOD! GOOD! NOW WE CAN PROCEED.
7-7

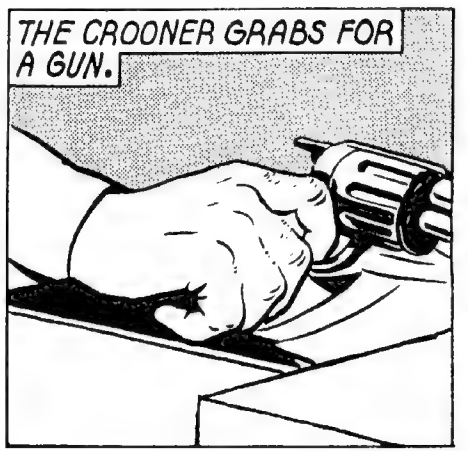

YOU BOYS GO OUT AND "CASE" THE TOWN~THE ONE WHO HAS THE BEST IDEA FOR OUR NEXT JOB, GETS A BONUS.

LA~DE~DA! AND WE CAN STILL BLAME OUR JOBS ON THE PHANTOM.

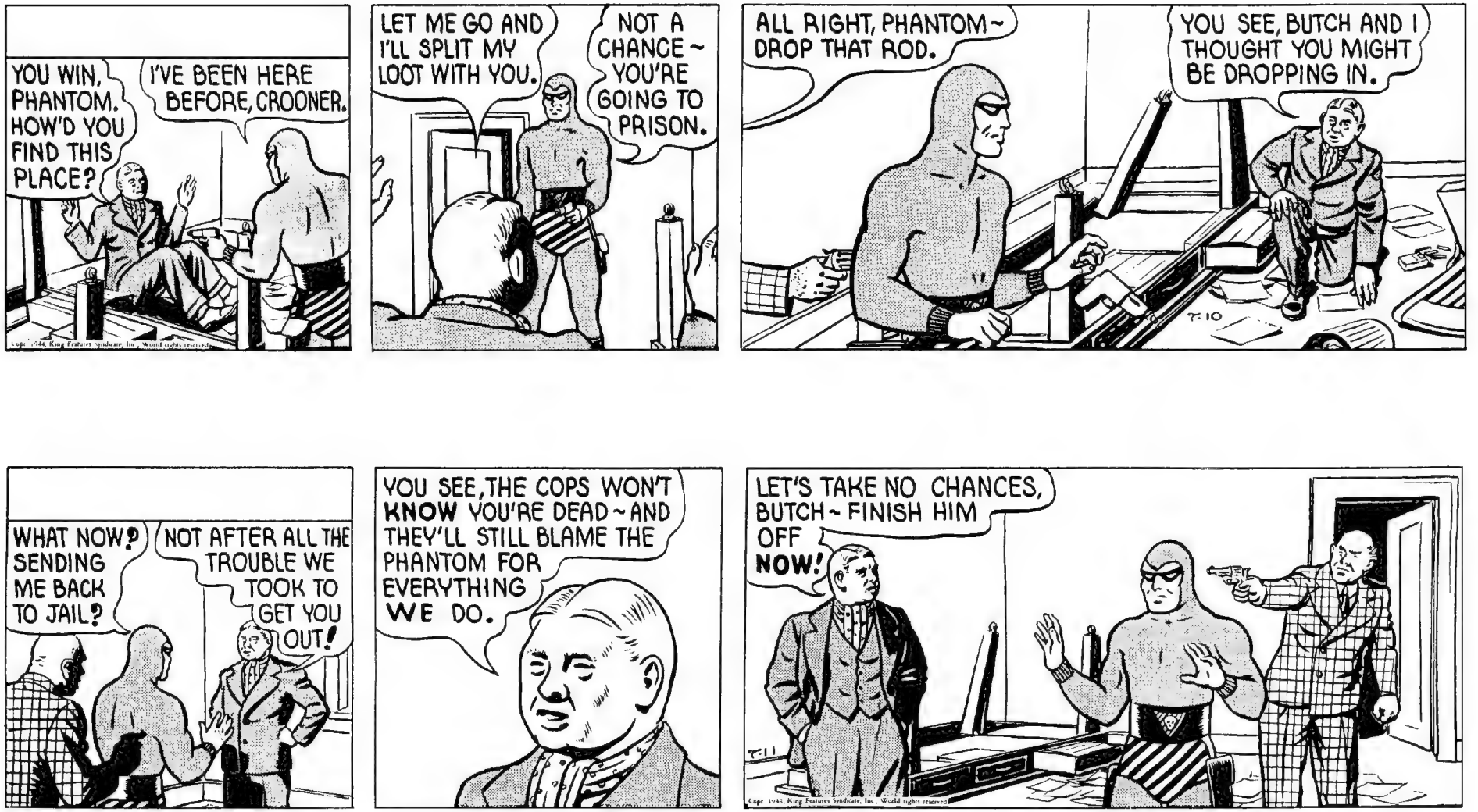
I LOVE ME! I LOVE ME! BECAUSE I AM SO CLEVER~

INTERESTING RING YOU HAVE THERE, MISTER.
7-8

IT'S ALMOST A MATCH FOR MINE.
ULP!


THE CROONER GRABS FOR A GUN.

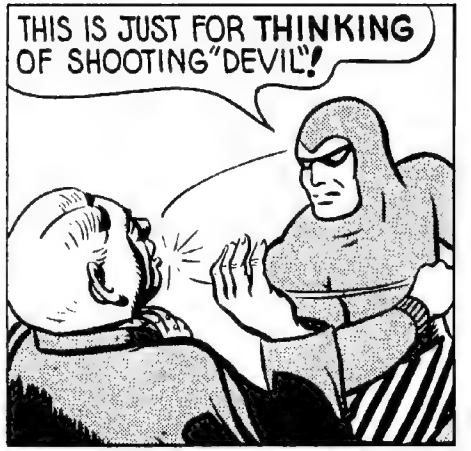
BUT THE PHANTOM IS TOO FAST FOR HIM.
CONT'D.

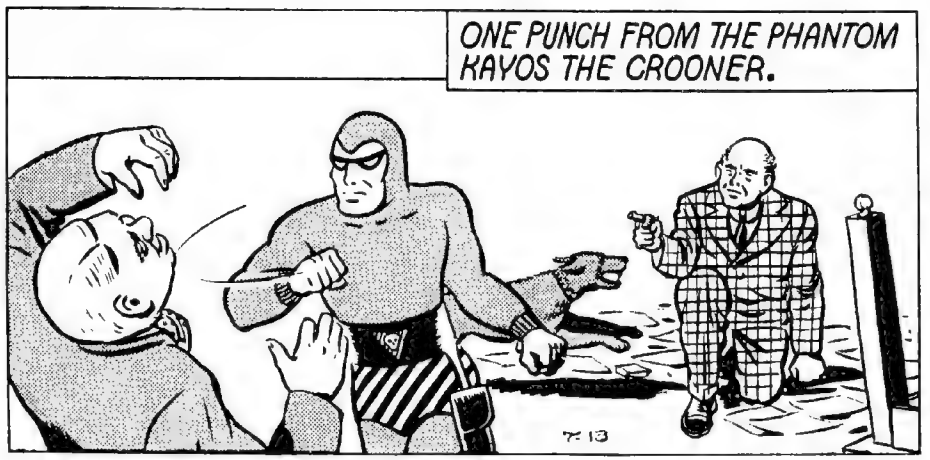

YOU WIN, PHANTOM. HOW'D YOU FIND THIS PLACE?
I'VE BEEN HERE BEFORE, CROONER.
LET ME GO AND I'LL SPLIT MY LOOT WITH YOU.
NOT A CHANCE ~ YOU'RE GOING TO PRISON.
ALL RIGHT, PHANTOM ~ DROP THAT ROD.
YOU SEE, BUTCH AND I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE DROPPING IN.
WHAT NOW? SENDING ME BACK TO JAIL?
NOT AFTER ALL THE TROUBLE WE TOOK TO GET YOU OUT!
YOU SEE, THE COPS WON'T KNOW YOU'RE DEAD ~ AND THEY'LL STILL BLAME THE PHANTOM FOR EVERYTHING WE DO.
LET'S TAKE NO CHANCES, BUTCH ~ FINISH HIM OFF NOW!

FAITHFUL "DEVIL" SAVES HIS MASTER ~ BY A SPLIT~SECOND.

GOOD BOY, "DEVIL"!
7-12

GRAB THAT GUN, BUTCH~ SHOOT THAT DOG!

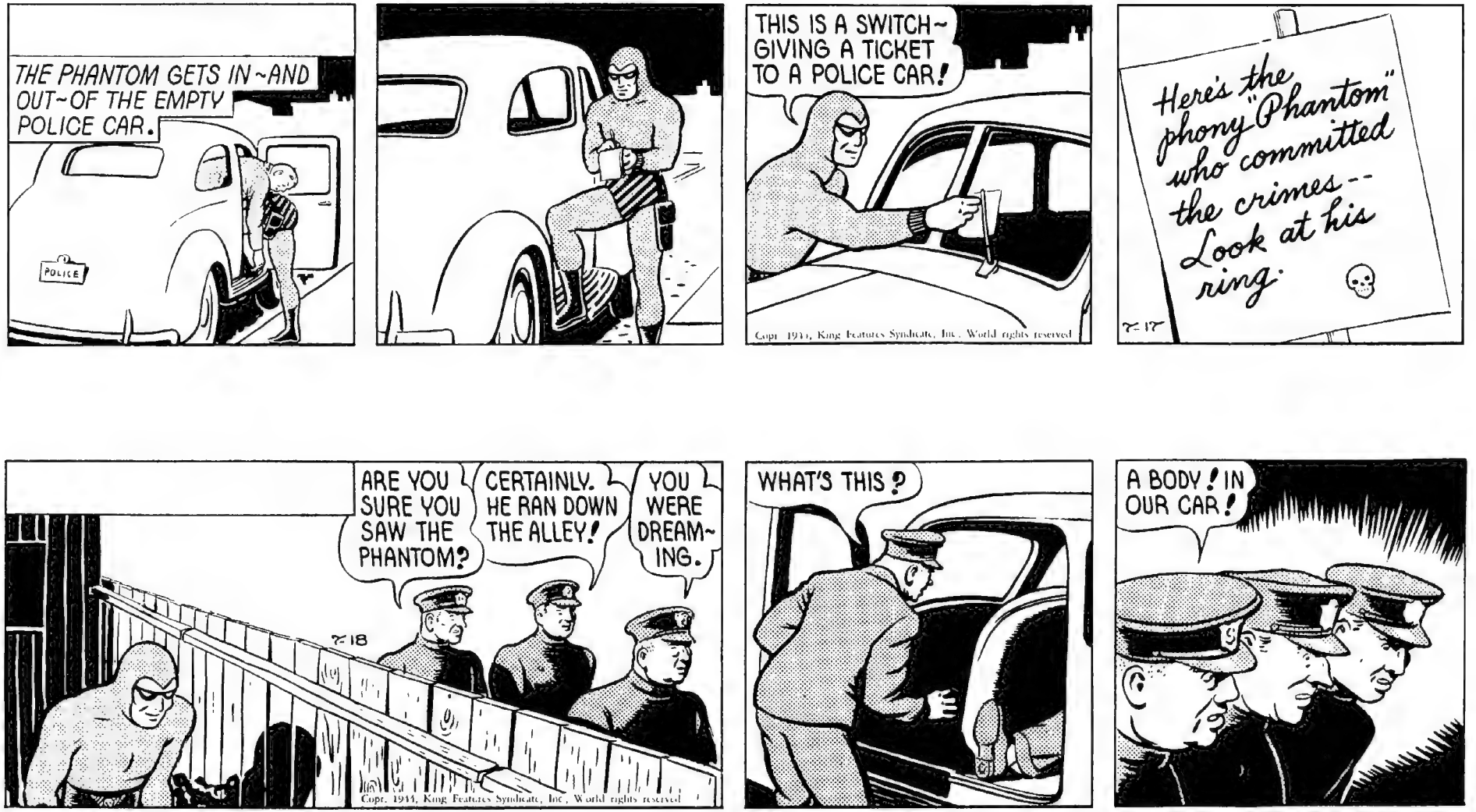

THIS IS JUST FOR THINKING OF SHOOTING "DEVIL"!


ONE PUNCH FROM THE PHANTOM KAYOS THE CROONER.
7-13

"DEVIL" STICKS WITH HIS MAN ~

"DEVIL", AS SOON AS RATIONING IS OVER, YOU'VE GOT A BEEF STEAK COMING!

AND NOW, GENTLEMEN, IT IS MY TURN.
LATER~
BOOOO
SEND HELP! I JUST SAW THE PHANTOM!
WHAT'S THE PHANTOM UP TO?
WHERE'S THE PHANTOM?
HE RAN DOWN THAT ALLEY!
COME ON~~LET'S GET HIM.
HE WENT THIS WAY!
CONT'D.


THE PHANTOM GETS IN~AND OUT~OF THE EMPTY POLICE CAR.
POLICE
THIS IS A SWITCH~ GIVING A TICKET TO A POLICE CAR!
Copr. 1944, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved
Here's the phony "Phantom" who committed the crimes -- Look at his ring.
ARE YOU SURE YOU SAW THE PHANTOM?
CERTAINLY. HE RAN DOWN THE ALLEY!
YOU WERE DREAM~ ING.
Copr. 1944, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved
WHAT'S THIS?
A BODY! IN OUR CAR!

HELP ME GET THIS GUY OUT.
LOOKS LIKE HE'S BEEN SLUGGED.
IS HE DEAD?
NO~HE'S BREATHING. WONDER WHAT THE GAG IS?
MAYBE SOME COLLITCH INITIATION.
WHO COULDA DONE THIS? WE WERE ONLY AWAY FROM THE CAR A MINUTE!
LOOK~ A NOTE!
LOOK! WE GOT A PARKING TICKET!
IT'S FROM THE PHANTOM!
IT SAYS THAT THIS IS THE PHONY PHANTOM WHO COMMITTED THE CRIMES.
IT SAYS TO LOOK AT HIS RING.
TOMORROW: MISSING.

HAVING "CASED" THE TOWN, THE GANGSTERS RETURN TO THEIR HANGOUT.

I PICKED OUT A BANK JOB DAT'S A LULU!
PHOOIE! I'M GONNA WIN DE BONUS!

HEY, CROONER, WE GOT ENOUGH JOBS LINED UP TO MAKE US ALL BILLIONAIRES.
Copr. 1944, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved

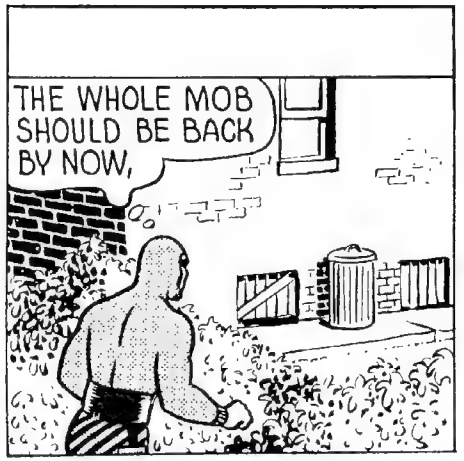
WHAT'S BEEN GOIN' ON HERE? THE CROONER IS GONE!

LOOKS LIKE THERE WAS A FIGHT.
THE CROONER AIN'T HERE.
BUTCH, NEITHER.

WONDER WHERE THE CROONER CAN BE?
I HOID A GROAN!

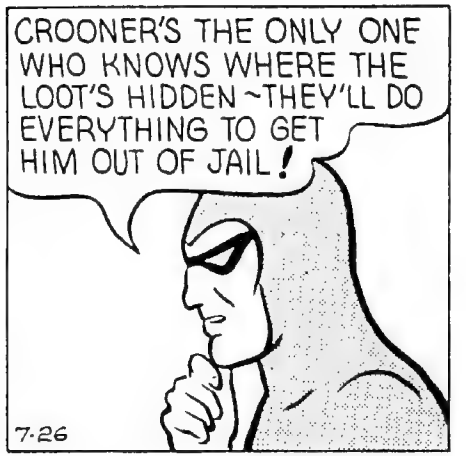
LOOK! IT'S BUTCH!
WITH A SKULL MARK ON HIS JAW!
Copr. 1944, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved
CONT'D.

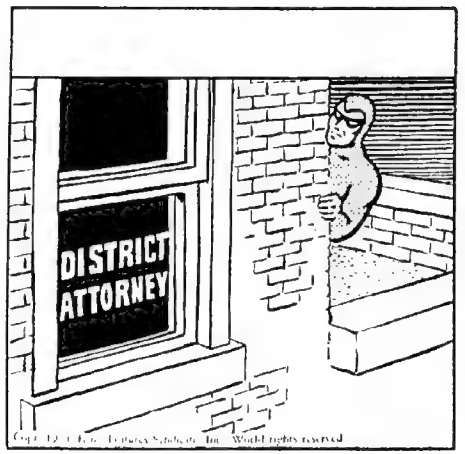
SEE THAT SKULL MARK, BOYS? THAT MEANS THE CROONER, HIMSELF, SLUGGED BUTCH. THEN MADE OFF WITH ALL OUR LOOT!
7-24
MADE OFF WITH OUR LOOT!
THE NO-GOOD DOUBLE-CROSSER!
LET'S RUB HIM OUT!
BOYS, YOU GOT THE CROONER ALL WRONG-IT WAS THE REAL PHANTOM WHO SLUGGED ME!
THE REAL PHANTOM KNOCKED ME COLD-THEN HE MUST'VE TOOK THE CROONER WITH HIM.
THEN THAT MEANS THE PHANTOM KNOWS THIS PLACE! WE GOTTA SCRAM OUTA HERE!
7-25
Copr. 1941, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved
BUT FIRST, WE GOTTA FIND WHERE THE CROONER HID THE LOOT!
NO LUCK, WAXY.
GONE! I WONDER IF THE CROONER DOUBLE-CROSSED US?

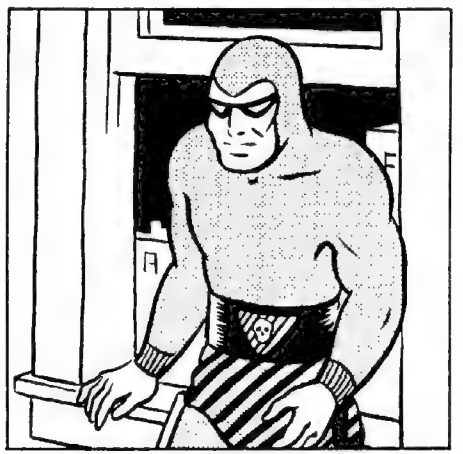

THE WHOLE MOB SHOULD BE BACK BY NOW,

AFTER DELIVERING THE CROONER TO THE POLICE, THE PHANTOM RETURNS TO THE GANG'S HEADQUARTERS.
EMPTY!

LOOKS LIKE EITHER A CYCLONE OR A TREASURE HUNT~ AND I'VE A HUNCH THEY DIDN'T FIND THE TREASURE!


CROONER'S THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS WHERE THE LOOT'S HIDDEN ~THEY'LL DO EVERYTHING TO GET HIM OUT OF JAIL!
7-26

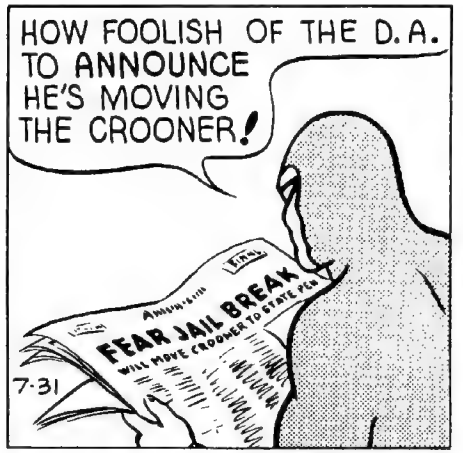

DISTRICT ATTORNEY



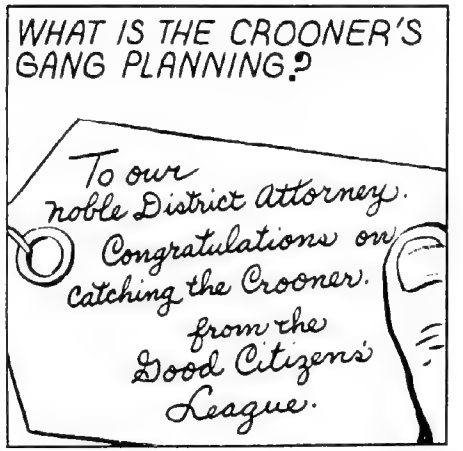
WHAT IS THE PHANTOM DOING IN THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE?
7-27

MORNING~ THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY.
BE ON GUARD, D.A. THE MOB'S GOING TO TRY TO FREE THE CROONER.
WHAT??
I HAVEN'T GOT TIME FOR CRANKS!
LOOK AT THE UNDER SIDE OF YOUR DESK BLOTTER.
7-28
IT WAS THE PHANTOM!
BOYS, I HAVE A TIP THAT THE MOB PLANS TO SPRING THE CROONER~SO WE'RE GOING TO MOVE HIM FROM THE CITY JAIL TO THE STATE PEN.
FINAL
FEAR JAIL BREAK
WILL MOVE CROONER TO STATE PEN
Copr. 1944, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.
THAT STATE PEN IS FOOL-PROOF ~WE GOTTA SPRING THE CROONER BEFORE THEY MOVE HIM!
7-29
NEXT WEEK: SAY IT WITH FLOWERS!

I WANT THEM DELIVERED TO THE D.A.


HOW FOOLISH OF THE D.A. TO ANNOUNCE HE'S MOVING THE CROONER!
FEAR JAIL BREAK
WILL MOVE CROONER TO STATE PEN
7-31

FOR ME? WHO SENT THEM?
THERE'S A CARD WITH 'EM.


WHAT IS THE CROONER'S GANG PLANNING?
To our noble District Attorney. Congratulations on catching the Crooner. from the Good Citizens' League.

AT LAST THE CITIZENS ARE BEGINNING TO APPRECIATE ME.
8-1

IT'S THE CROONER!
THEY'RE MOVIN' HIM OUTA JAIL!

POLICE STATION

HEY, WAXY, THAT DIDN'T LOOK LIKE DE CROONER.
WASN'T! THE D.A. IS TRYIN' TO PULL A FAST ONE!

WELL, EVERYTHING WENT OFF SMOOTHLY.
FRANKLY, I'M WORRIED.
8-2
WASN'T IT UNWISE TO AN~ NOUNCE THE REMOVAL OF THE CROONER? SUPPOSE THE MOB HOLDS UP THE TRAIN TO GET HIM OFF?
HA, HA! I SEE YOU HAVEN'T THE FAITH IN ME THAT THE GOOD CITIZENS' LEAGUE HAS!
Copr. 1941, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.
THAT WASN'T THE REAL CROONER WE PUT ON THE TRAIN. I'LL PERSONALLY ESCORT HIM TO THE STATE PEN IN MY CAR!
TOMORROW: EAVESDROPPERS.
YESSIR, I'M PULLING A FAST ONE ~~ I'M TAKING THE CROONER TO THE STATE PEN IN MY CAR.
SO IF THEY HOLD UP THE TRAIN, THEY WON'T FIND THE CROONER~
8-3
BUT AS THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY SPEAKS, THE CROONER'S MOB "LISTENS" IN.
WE LEAVE AT 3 O'CLOCK, AND TAKE THE STATE HIGHWAY, STRAIGHT TO THE PRISON.
~AND, OF COURSE, IT WILL BE PERFECTLY SAFE, BE~ CAUSE NOBODY KNOWS ABOUT IT!
HOW ARE THEY DOING IT?
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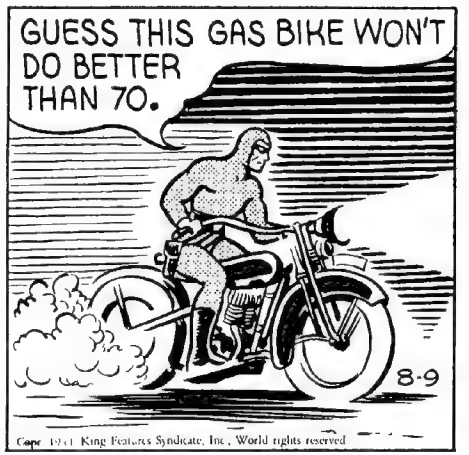
WELL, IT'S NEARLY TIME TO START.
THINK I'LL WEAR THIS~ FOR LUCK.
Copr. 1944, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved
THAT WIRE! THAT'S NO ORDINARY BOUQUET!
8-4
THERE'S ONE WAY TO MAKE SURE ABOUT THAT FLORAL PIECE.
A MINIATURE SENDING SET~ CONCEALED IN IT! NO DOUBT THE CROONER'S GANG SENT IT TO THE D.A.!
8-5
I MUST WARN THE D.A. THAT THE GANG KNOWS ALL ABOUT HIS "SECRET" PLAN!
Copr. 1944, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved
BUT THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S CAR HAS ALREADY STARTED TO~ WARD THE STATE PEN WITH THE CROONER.
CONT'D

GONE! BUT I'VE GOT TO CATCH THE D.A. BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!
THE GANG'S GOING TO TRY TO FREE THE CROONER.
SPECIAL $29.99
~UNLESS I CAN STOP THEM.
Copr. 1944, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.
THIS MAY WORK~
WHAT MAY WORK?
SPECIAL $29.99
8-7
WHAT'S THAT? A BODY?
$29.99
THOSE HIT-AN'-RUN DRIVERS OUGHTA ALL BE STRUNG UP!
A DUMMY! WHAT KIND OF FOOL JOKE IS THIS?
!
8-8

THE GANG PLANS TO AMBUSH THE D.A.'S CAR, WHILE THE PHANTOM RACES TO WARN HIM OF THE TRAP.
BE READY WITH THE DETOUR SIGN. THEY'RE DUE SHORTLY.


GUESS THIS GAS BIKE WON'T DO BETTER THAN 70.
8-9
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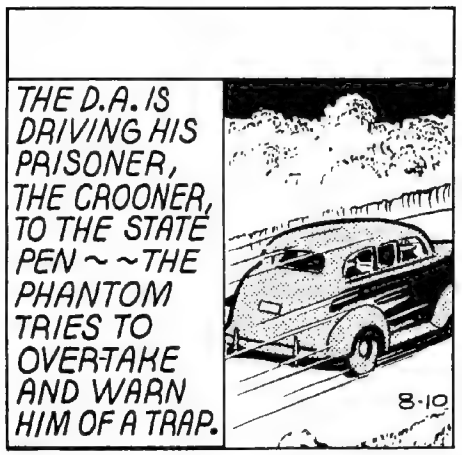
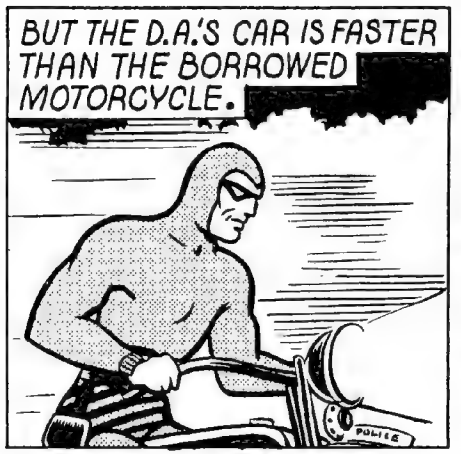
NOT MUCH TRAFFIC ON THIS ROAD, GRAYSON. HOLD HER AT 75.
TOMORROW: STOP~DANGER.


THE D.A. IS DRIVING HIS PRISONER, THE CROONER, TO THE STATE PEN ~ ~THE PHANTOM TRIES TO OVERTAKE AND WARN HIM OF A TRAP.
8-10


BUT THE D.A.'S CAR IS FASTER THAN THE BORROWED MOTORCYCLE.

STEP ON IT, GRAYSON.
I'M GIVING HER ALL~UH~OH! SOMETHING ACROSS THE ROAD!
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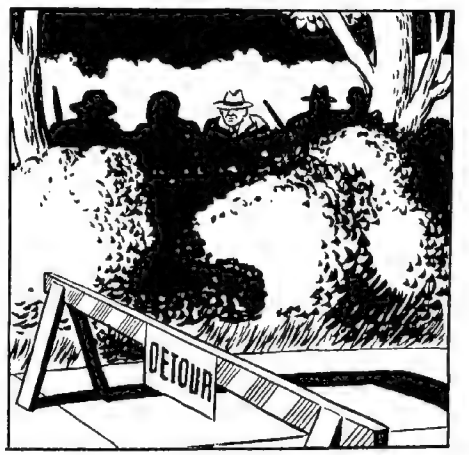
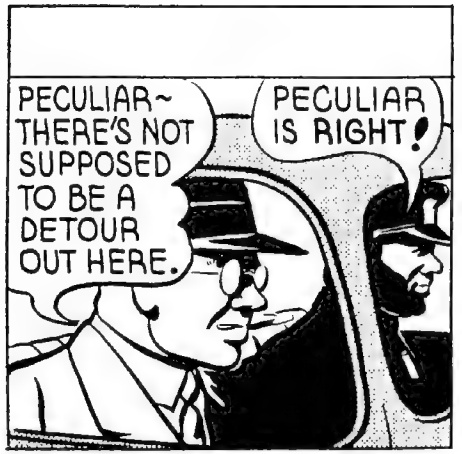
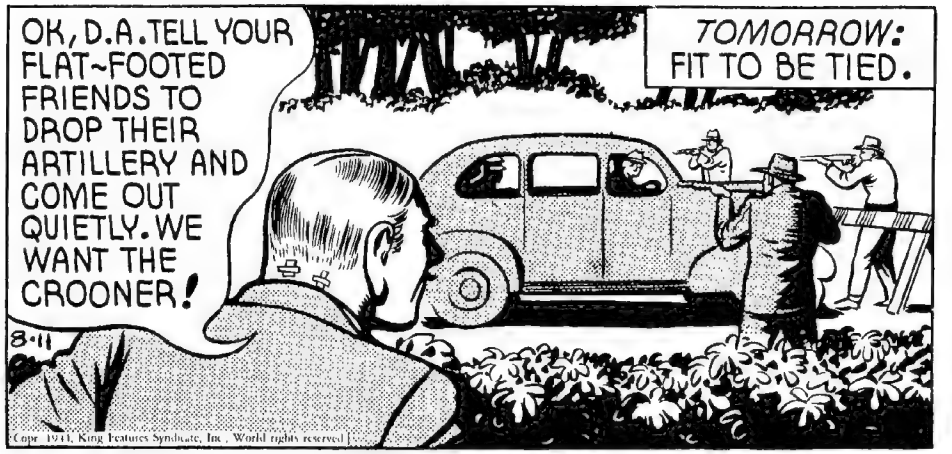

DETOUR


PECULIAR~ THERE'S NOT SUPPOSED TO BE A DETOUR OUT HERE.
PECULIAR IS RIGHT!

ONLY THE CROONER SEEMS HAPPY ABOUT THE DELAY.
LA~DE~DA~DE~DA! DUM~TE~DUM!


OK, D.A. TELL YOUR FLAT~FOOTED FRIENDS TO DROP THEIR ARTILLERY AND COME OUT QUIETLY. WE WANT THE CROONER!
TOMORROW: FIT TO BE TIED.
8-11
Copr. 1944, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved

YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS OUTRAGE!

COPPER, UNLOCK THE CROONER.
THANKS A MILLION ~
8-12

HOW YOU FEELIN', CROONER?
SWELL! NICE GOING, WAXY!
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I'M THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY! THEY CAN'T DO THIS TO ME!
LOOKS LIKE THEY DID.
CONT'D.

WHERE'S THE LOOT, CROONER?
THAT'S EASY. UNDER THE STAIRCASE AT HIDEOUT NO.3.
THE CROONER IS RESCUED FROM THE POLICE AND MARCHED INTO THE WOODS.
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THAT'S ALL WE WANTED TO KNOW. O.K., BUTCH! LET HIM HAVE IT.

H~H~HEY! W~WHAT'S THIS? ~I'M YOUR LEADER!
8-14

WE JUST FOUND OUT WHY YOU'RE CALLED THE CROONER ~AND YOU'VE SUNG YOUR LAST TUNE!

OUT WEST THEY CALLED YOU THE CROONER, BECAUSE YOU "SANG" TO THE COPS.
YOU GOT ME WRONG, BOYS. I DIDN'T TELL THE COPS NOTHIN'!

WE AIN'T TAKIN' NO CHANCES ~LEAVE HIM HAVE IT, BUTCH.
8-15

SUDDENLY, AN UNEXPECTED SHOT~
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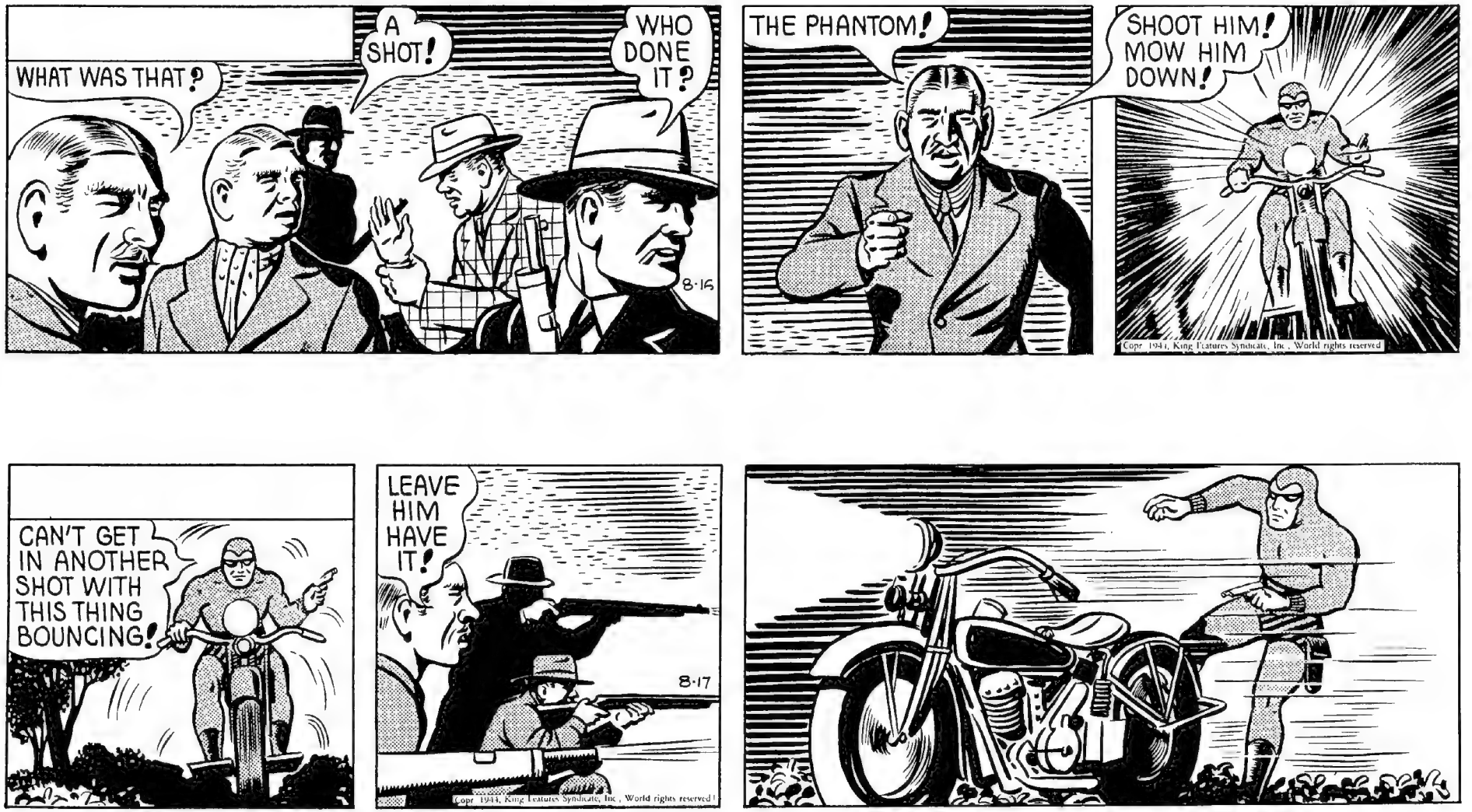
WHAT WAS THAT?
A SHOT!
WHO DONE IT?
8-16
THE PHANTOM!
SHOOT HIM! MOW HIM DOWN!
Copr. 1944, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved
CAN'T GET IN ANOTHER SHOT WITH THIS THING BOUNCING!
LEAVE HIM HAVE IT!
8-17
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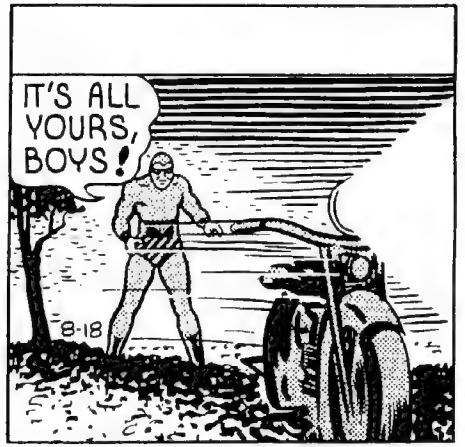
IT'S ALL YOURS, BOYS!
8-18

GANGWAY!
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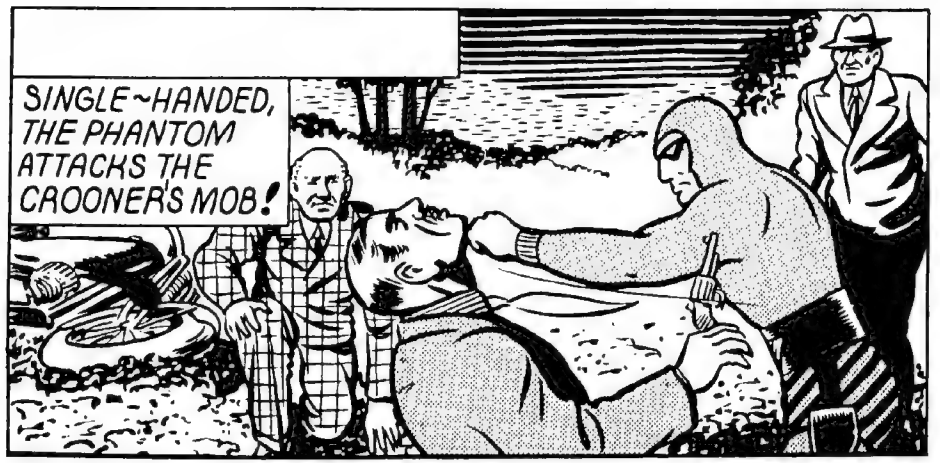
SINGLE-HANDED, THE PHANTOM ATTACKS THE CROONER'S MOB!

THIS'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU, MYSTERY MAN!
8-19
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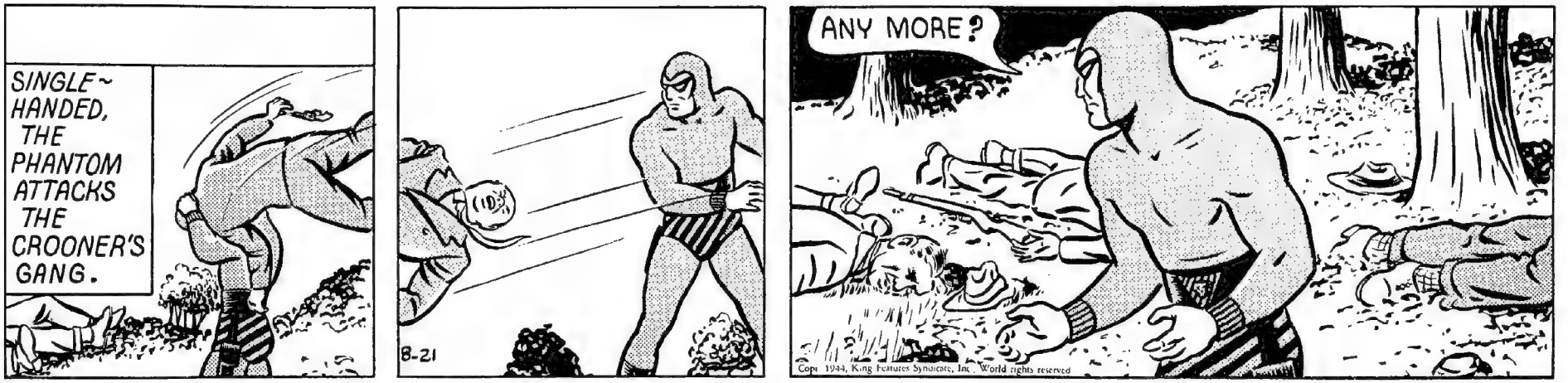
CONT'D.


SINGLE~ HANDED, THE PHANTOM ATTACKS THE CROONER'S GANG.
8-21
ANY MORE?
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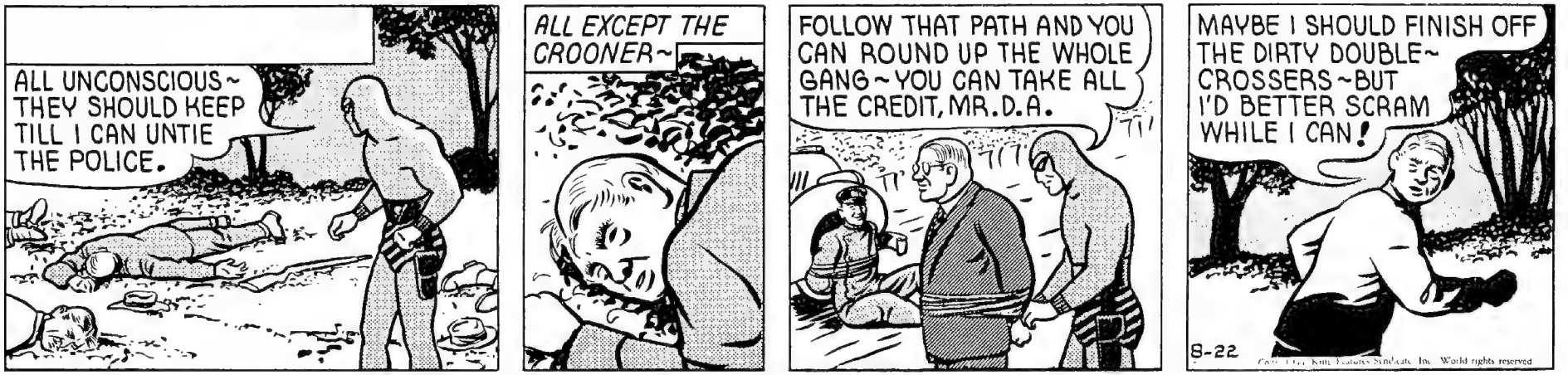
ALL UNCONSCIOUS~ THEY SHOULD KEEP TILL I CAN UNTIE THE POLICE.
ALL EXCEPT THE CROONER~
FOLLOW THAT PATH AND YOU CAN ROUND UP THE WHOLE GANG~YOU CAN TAKE ALL THE CREDIT, MR. D.A.
MAYBE I SHOULD FINISH OFF THE DIRTY DOUBLE~ CROSSERS~BUT I'D BETTER SCRAM WHILE I CAN!
8-22
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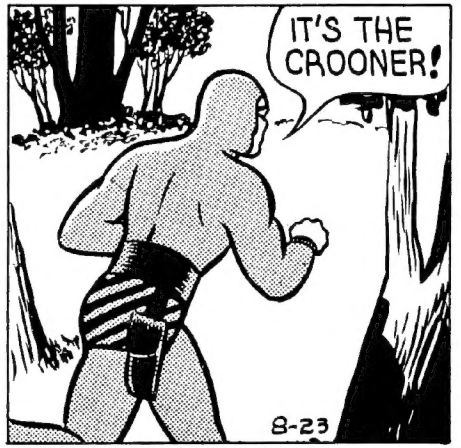
SOMEBODY RUNNING THROUGH THE WOODS!


IT'S THE CROONER!
8-23

THE PHANTOM~ HE'S AFTER ME!
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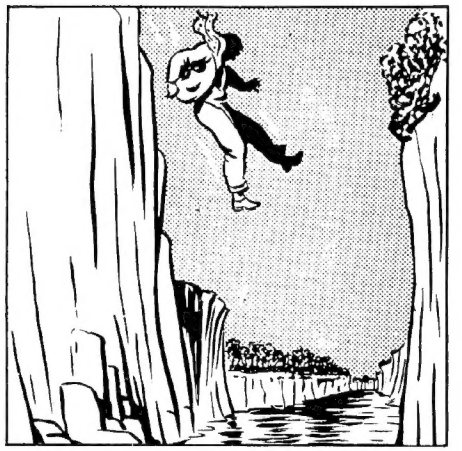

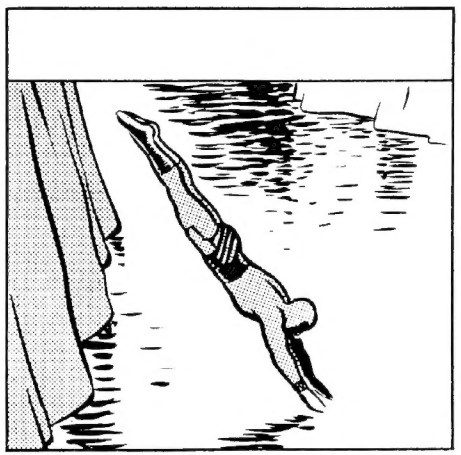

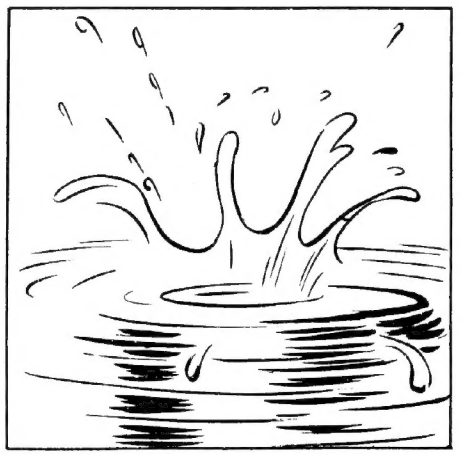

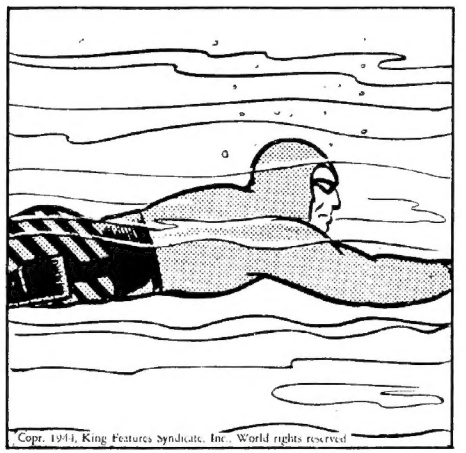
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RELAX, CROONER. YOU'LL SOON BE SAFE AND SOUND~ BEHIND BARS.
8-24

THEY'RE ALL HERE ~EXCEPT THE CROONER.

ALL HERE~ INCLUDING THE CROONER!
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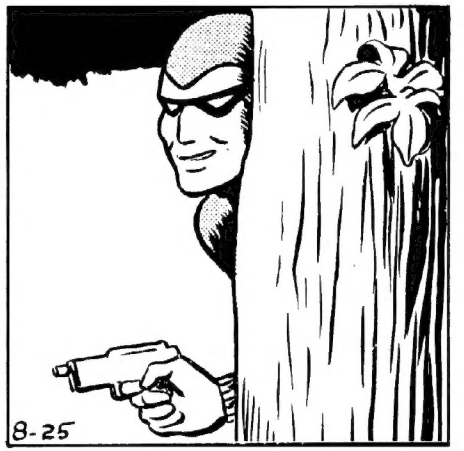
8-25

~AND SO I NABBED THE WHOLE GANG. YOU MAY QUOTE ME AS SAYING I NEVER ONCE SUSPECTED THE REAL PHANTOM OF BEING A CRIMINAL.
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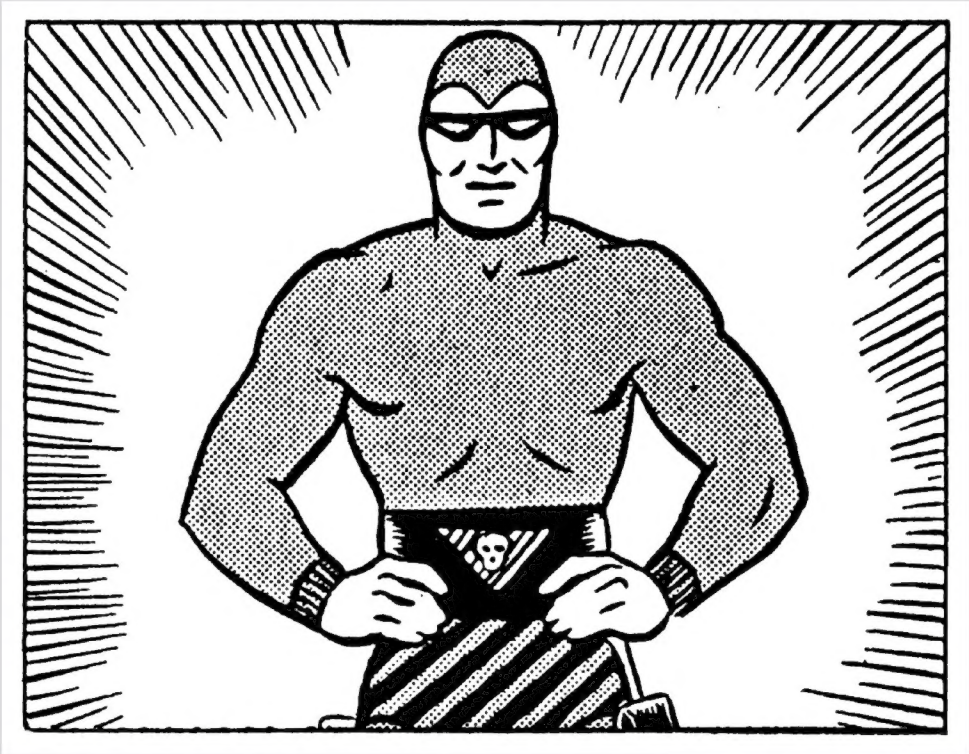
NOW, MOTHER~ DO YOU STILL THINK THE PHANTOM IS A CROOK?
NONSENSE, DIANA, WE NEVER DID. AT LEAST I DIDN'T!
HMM~
BEGINNING NEXT WEEK: THE MAHARAJAH'S DAUGHTER.
PHANTOM CLEARED
8-26

AND I, THE PHANTOM, RENEW MY PLEDGE TO FIGHT AGAINST PIRACY, GREED AND INJUSTICE IN ALL OF THEIR MANY SHAPES.



the PHANTOM®

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